

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

Cast:

Cathy Mason

Rachel Mason

Stevie Martin

Gina Martin

[I Wish I Was An Only Child Theme Song]

Rachel: Yes I am.

Cathy: The dog is on vaccination 755. The siblings who live on the street have only had two vaccinations but I suspect they looked at Frank and went 'Oh ho' so every week we get a message saying 'She needs to come for another vaccination but it's £750 and we are giving her pills every sort of three weeks for the most weird diseases that I've never heard of'.

Rachel: Yeah but you and Frank just really [laughs].

Cathy: Frank likes her and Frank will not admit it.

Rachel: You were trying to get a dog chew and the vet was going 'No that's too big she's only a puppy' and you guys were like 'That's fine'. And she was like 'But she's got brown teeth it's too big' and you were like 'That's fine' [laughs].

Cathy: And also we've given her a bone, which we were not supposed to do, this massive bone.

Rachel: But she said their teeth break so easily because they're brittle, the poor vet was trying to be really clear 'It's your decision but this isn't right'.

Cathy: But we were desperate. We were desperate, we were desperate.

Rachel: She was showing them all these different things, they were like 'We'll have that one, the teeth breaking one' [laughs].

Cathy: No.

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Rachel: Yeah.

Cathy: We've given her like a cow's leg in the garden.

Rachel: So you have gone from like slightly hoping she'd run away to being besotted.

Cathy: Oh we were going to get rid of her 100%, for two weeks every night we were going to get rid of her.

Rachel: Both of them look completely broken.

Cathy: We gave her this massive bone which we shouldn't do. The dog is now covered head to toe in marrow and blood from the bone. So she stinks, the house stinks, you're not supposed to give puppies these bones but we were desperate. So we just got this massive cow's leg, because we didn't know what she was biting everything, we couldn't have a break from her.

Rachel: But they were so broken Jo.

Cathy: So somebody said 'Give a dog a bone' so we went to the butchers and said 'Can we have a massive bone?' and she was brilliant because she just stayed in our garden the whole time. But then she came in head to toe, blood, marrow, and she stinks now. So yes that's where we're at with the dog.

Rachel: Welcome to I Wish I Was An Only Child, with me Rachel Mason.

Cathy: And me, Cathy Mason.

Rachel: Where we speak to siblings about the dynamic of their relationship so we can see where we're going wrong.

Cathy: Today we spoke to writer and activist Gina Martin and comedian and writer Stevie Martin.

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

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- Rachel: We've obviously been doing our research and listening to lots of podcasts and reading around.
- Cathy: I'm insanely jealous of your family to be honest.
- Rachel: Yeah so the four of you in the household, but yeah tell us a bit about the dynamic of growing up. Because your parents sound very creative, your dad is a session drummer and your mum?
- Stevie: Mum basically is like a Jack of all trades but she's incredibly arty and she used to paint like wonderful children's murals on people's walls and she went to America and like looked after like billionaire's children as like a live-in nanny. And then she retrained at 40 and did a full degree and became an interior designer for like 10 or 11 years. And now she's looking after kids again and illustrating on the side.
- Cathy: Oh lovely.
- Stevie: So she's just basically like a creative explosion. And a very good mum obviously.
- Cathy: And your dad?
- Gina: Dad's a drummer, dad's been a session drummer forever, he started playing drums when he was like nine? I hope that's right, I think he was about nine, he's very little. And he decided he wanted to do that and he never stopped and he's made a living out of doing that which is very hard to do. Because if you're in a band you're like the drummer of that band, so whether the band does well or not that depends on your career. But like he's played for lots and lots of different people. He always says 'I'm the only drummer that's played for like Aretha Franklin and Ant and Dec' [Laughs].
- Cathy: Oh wow.
- Gina: So it's like and everywhere in-between. Dad's more of a practical person than mum. Where mum is very creative

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and me and Stevie get that from mum. But I think dad's actually creative in his own way because I think to be a musician you have to be creative but he doesn't see that because he can't draw. He's like 'I'm not creative' and it's like, but you're a drummer, you are. And he's taught me drums since I was a little girl.

Cathy: Aww.

Stevie: He tried to teach me but I was shit.

Gina: [Laughs] You're not shit, you're just not good.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Gina: And mum and dad are very funny people. Very naturally funny people, both of them. Very playful, very silly. The whole family all four of us, I don't think any of us take ourselves seriously when we hang out the four of us it's like 100 miles an hour. And like we went to celebrate my dad's 60th recently and like having dinner and it was like telling all these stories and we're all laughing and then like we all got up and me and dad and Stevie were doing the... from Hannah Montana for like ten minutes.

Cathy: Aww.

Gina: And dad was like, couldn't do it but he was just pissing himself laughing and dancing. It's always like very high energy when we're together.

Stevie: But we also can't ever decide anything because everyone is very excitable. So whenever we come home, like it will be like about one, so we'll be like 'Cool, what are we going to do for lunch?' and then at four we still haven't eaten lunch because no one has decided anything. Someone's been like 'I've cancelled the pub, I've cancelled the pub'. And then someone's mopping so now we can't use the kitchen. And then someone's like 'I'll make you a sandwich'.

Gina: And mum's like 'Shall we make some...and we're like OK'.

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Stevie: Yeah so it's very difficult to eat as a group.

Gina: Yes.

Stevie: That's what I would describe our family as.

Cathy: So when you were growing up, was there very little outside coming in? Was it just the four of you? Because that's what it feels like.

Stevie: Yes that is actually quite true yeah. What was nice is that we would go and if dad was on tour somewhere that was like, I want to say holidayable or weekend breakable.

Gina: Like Paris.

Stevie: Like Paris yeah. We went to Israel once, that was really nice. And we'd go and like join him and have a little holiday around that. So the we got to meet loads, like a great variety of people.

Gina: Yeah.

Stevie: Also sometimes his musician friends would come and stay over or something because they were going away somewhere else. So it was quite nice because we got to meet loads of people but also yeah in terms of our family unit, we are like very, very tight and very like I mean we had friends and they are very sociable, but it's like we're a little gang in the world.

Gina: I think as well it's where we are. Like mum and dad were living in Manhattan for ages and then they came back here to England to have us.

Stevie: Thrilled about that obviously, thrilled.

Gina: Yeah thanks for moving to Cheshire.

Cathy: I was going to say, why?

Stevie: It's really great.

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Gina: They said that the news story that when they left Manhattan was like there's a shout out in Little Italy in a restaurant they'd just been in and then when they got here it was like 'Chippy had small fire' and they were like oh.

Stevie: [Laughs]

Gina: But obviously they moved here to be nearer to our grandparents who are from Liverpool because the history of our family is all Scousers so that made sense to be here. So that made sense to be here but then they didn't really know anyone here and it's quite a small town and it's quite a different culture shock from moving from Manhattan so they never really made lots of friends here, we had lots of friends in Liverpool and different places and as they passed through they would come here, but otherwise it wasn't an in and out thing, it was just us in the house really.

Cathy: And was your dad away a lot?

Stevie: Yeah.

Gina: No.

Stevie: I'd say enough.

Cathy: There you go, yes and no.

Gina: Stevie's like 'Yes'.

Stevie: He was away so much [crying voice]. No but like when you think about dads who like have jobs and like yeah. Because like he'd go on 18 month tours, there was like a ten year period where the tours were always like 15 months, 18 months. He would come back obviously within that time but it would be like six weeks at a time and then you'd see him for a couple of days and then he'd go back. And he kind of has you know continued to do that, but now the tours are a little bit shorter sometimes and it's a little bit more manageable.

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Gina: Further apart yeah.

Stevie: But when I think back to being a kid it was always like for birthdays and stuff it would be like a surprise. Because dad would come home and surprise us.

Gina: Yeah that was brilliant, yeah.

Stevie: But what was nice it never felt bad. It was just always like that's what dad has to do. And then we'd go and join them and stuff so it was kind of like exciting. But it was weird because that was obviously pre Skype and all of that. So you generally just didn't hear from him apart from on the phone like.

Gina: On the phone if he had time but.

Cathy: Oh wow.

Gina: And like I remember he used to come home, because when he did come home it would be when dad was home, dad is a very, very involved dad. So when dad was home it was like, dad was home.

Stevie: It's really fun.

Gina: And I remember if he was coming in from tour or whatever, late, he would come in at night and we would be asleep and he'd come into our room and wake us up and we'd be like 'Yah!' it was so fun.

Stevie: [Screams excitedly] And now we can't get back to sleep.

Rachel: But quite hard on your mum, your dad being away so much?

Gina: Yes.

Stevie: I think so, but one of those people who was just like 'It's fine, I'm going to get on with it, it's cool'. So it never felt like that but then looking back. At one point we got a puppy and so at one point we had a puppy, I was maybe 14?

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Gina: No you were like seven.

Stevie: Yeah I was like 40, sorry eight. And then Gina is three years younger than me. And then also she was at uni.

Gina: Yeah because she retrained at uni at 40.

Cathy: That's brilliant.

Stevie: Yeah and so now I've got a puppy, I know what that feels like. I'm like how did you toilet train the dog while you've got two kids and you're at university and dad's away?

Cathy: Absolutely.

Stevie: I think our grandparents did a lot, because I can remember them picking us up from school and like coming to help quite a lot. Because Liverpool is about 40 minutes away from where we live so that wasn't too bad and she kind of got a lot of help that way.

Cathy: [Laughs] Do you not remember this? We were told dad was on tour so he'd come back at weekends and give us sweets. They were actually divorced but she didn't want to tell us.

Rachel: What was he on tour doing what?

Cathy: She said he was working away.

Rachel: Cath will always bring it down, I'm just warning you.

Cathy: No it's quite funny though.

Rachel: Bring the tone right down.

Stevie: It's interesting, is that the wording she used 'on tour?'

Cathy: No she said 'He's away working' so he'd be away working all week and then he'd come back for a night and give us sweets. And we just thought he was away working and then about ten years later we were told [laughs].

Rachel: Yeah I know.

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Cathy: They were divorced. Sorry...

Rachel: There's 18 months between us, Cathy is older, I understood it less, so I was probably just fine with the sweets do you know what I mean?

Stevie: Yeah.

Rachel: Because I didn't obviously understand what was going on. And then when he fully left I thought he then remarried and we got extra Christmas presents, so it was fine.

Cathy: Great.

Rachel: It damaged you a lot more than me, let's be honest.

Cathy: Yeah exactly. Exactly. Was there any parental favouritism?

Rachel: Yeah?

Gina: As in with us or?

Cathy: Yeah who was the favourite child? Who stood out as being?

Stevie: You think it's me, don't you? [laughs]

Gina: No I don't think it's Stevie. I just think that Stevie because my perception of what was valuable in a child is that Stevie is very clever and I was very like 'What's going on?' And my grandma used to say about Stevie like 'Oh she's perfect, she's perfect' and it was like obviously no one said anything about me but the subtext was like 'And she's all right' but obviously that's how I internalised it, grandma would have been horrified that that's what I thought. But I just thought because Stevie was so clever that it was like 'Wow Stevie's so clever'...It does and I don't think anyone ever made that thing but I thought.

Rachel: Stevie what's your take on that?

Stevie: Yeah I'm the best one, oh yeah.

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Cathy: Can you just flesh out why you're the best?

Stevie: Oh sorry, OK yeah. No, I didn't feel like there was any favouritism, I do feel like because when you're the older one, when you're the younger one that dynamic continues throughout your entire life. So even I, like Gina is turning 30 soon? I hope that's OK to say.

Gina: [Laughs]

Stevie: And I'm 33, so we're just full adults obviously now but you revert, like I see Gina as she's like 16 maybe like 17 at a push.

Rachel: Mm.

Stevie: And sometimes maybe there is like a deferring to me in terms of like 'Very interesting Stevie, really great take' 'Ha, ha, Gina you're mad'.

Gina: Yeah because I'm the little one.

Stevie: You're the little one, and that will never go away I don't think because Gina is too young to be an adult surely. But obviously she's not. So I see that but obviously I don't see that when we were growing up I was. Very recently my parents revealed to me that they thought I had a photographic memory and was just like exams are really easy for me and it was like, no I've got a high level of anxiety and I worked really hard. Not that Gina didn't work hard, but obviously I have the propensity to just like learn stuff and shoot it out in exams a lot easier than Gina did. But it's from my perspective which is that I was just very stressed all the time. Not I was like this person who was just like, I'm so sorry I'm very clever. That wasn't my perception.

Gina: Yeah I thought Stevie would like look at books and be like, revision done. But Stevie was in her room like 'Oh God!' like trying to learn.

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Stevie: And also recently Gina said to me that, because I read a lot and Gina said to me that she thought all the books I read are like Norse mythology and Chaucer and I was like 'No, I read like books that you would like'. Because we did English literature and some of the modules were all like in old English and it was like yeah cool, like I failed those [laughs] because I couldn't read them. But like there's this kind of perception yeah that I think you know I'm not stupid, but you know I'm not as intelligent as people in the family believe I am.

Gina: It's so funny that's just stuck. But I don't think there was any favouritism in terms of us. Mum and dad are both people who are very effusive with their love, so they're like very cuddly, they're very tactile, they're very playful, they're very verbally affirming and there was just an abundance of that, there just didn't seem to be any difference between us.

Stevie: Yeah it wasn't like 'Oh I wish you were more like your sister'.

Gina: No, no.

Stevie: That didn't happen I don't think. I don't think anyway.

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

[Promotion for Welcome To Spooktown]

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

Rachel: So did either of you rebel?

Stevie: Oh sure.

Gina: Oh no.

Stevie: You did Gina didn't you?

Gina: I don't think I did. Do you think I did?

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Stevie: So look basically what we should do is we should do is we should make up like a big rebellious story because at the moment we're just like...

Cathy: Yes please.

Stevie: ...our family were really affirming and like it's actually fine. I rebelled, well I think we were both, I remember being a piece of shit when I was like going through puberty [laughs] I carved 'I hate dad' on a cupboard.

Gina: Sorry that wasn't when you were going through puberty, that was when you were literally like eight and he wouldn't let you go swimming.

Stevie: Oh my God what's wrong with me? Why do I keep thinking I'm so much older than that. OK fine but also I used to like, I like discovered alcohol at like 13/14, would come in like absolutely smashed throwing up everywhere. And that actually caused Gina to not drink until she was like 22 or something?

Gina: Yeah.

Stevie: All the way through university.

Gina: Yeah.

Stevie: And she even worked at a cocktail bar and she was like 'I'm not drinking because I've seen' I think it was like, maybe it was that thing but I did very well in my GCSEs and all that stuff and then you went to a different sixth form and it was yeah OK I'm going to drink two Smirnoff Ices and throw up on my father. And I also smoked like at uni and all that stuff and then regretted that very much. But you didn't really do any of that. You didn't have your big, but then you'd runaway to Budapest and worked in party hostels.

Gina: I did yes. Because I didn't drink until I went to uni, and also I'm a very hyperactive person so I just felt like I didn't need to sort of thing, I was worried how I would be

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actually if I drunk because I'm quite hyperactive anyway, I'm quite sort of drunk all the time. And then when I moved to London because I did a degree in advertising in Leeds, and I drunk in uni but like I was never the most drunk, I was always the person putting people into cars, I was always the least drunk person. And then second year of uni I went to this place called Budapest, not this place called Budapest that's in Hungary, as in sorry Budapest Party Hostels, which is like this network of travel hostels and I worked there and that whole thing was like 'Good morning breakfast is...' and you'd be like OK better do it otherwise I'm not cool. And so there I drunk like a lot. And then did that for about three months and then came home. But I think that was me trying to be like, yeah look I am cool I do drink. Because I didn't for ages. And I really enjoyed it but it was a very short period of like all right you better go home now because you drank for 14 days.

Cathy: And did that shock you Stevie? Did you see a different side to her that?

Stevie: Yeah because I think I felt bad because I was like I think I've ruined Gina's like fun because she's seen me being so blah that she you know, when you're not drunk and someone's really drunk and also you're like just in your family home it's not great. And I felt bad and I was kind of relieved that she did go to the party hostels and she did do that. Because then when she came back there wasn't the sense, because I think I'm right in saying Gina and I think I'm OK to say this, we weren't really that close between like when I left uni.

Gina: No. Nothing like we are now.

Stevie: And then there was three or four years. When Gina was still at home and I'd gone to uni there was like a two year thing and then Gina went to uni, I didn't go and visit, we didn't really talk very much.

Cathy: Really?

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Stevie: It's like we didn't really know each other very much.

Gina: We were in touch, like we were on social media, we'd chat and stuff. And when we'd come home it would be great but we didn't form like a friendship outside of being like sisters, whereas now we're incredibly close as sisters and we would say that we're probably best friends as well as sisters. Whereas then it was like we were at that age where you're sort of like doing quite different things. And then as you get into your 20s you're doing similar things so you can bond on that but we just didn't see each other a lot.

Cathy: Yeah.

Gina: And we kept in touch and we still loved each other but it wasn't like we were really developing this friendship at all.

Stevie: Yeah I would have said that when you go from being like 13/14/15 to being like you're 18/19/20 and I've been at uni, Gina hasn't and also like Gina's this person that doesn't drink and I remember like not really actively thinking about it but I just didn't quite get what we'd do socially which is terrible because there's more to life than drinking and going out but I felt like I was very separate. And then I remember you came to...

Gina: You took me to a party.

Stevie: In Durham?

Gina: Yeah.

Stevie: Yeah so then Gina came to visit me in Durham where I was at uni and we had two days. And I remember all my friends were like 'Gina is so fun!' and I was like yeah Gina is fun.

Gina: [Laughs]

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Stevie: And then sort of from that and then when I moved to London and when Gina graduated, we ended up, our offices for our first jobs were like both in Soho, both around the corner from each other. Gina was like this cool ad gal who was like 'Sorry I've got a membership at the gym next door' and I was like I'm too nervous to go to a gym. And Gina got me into all these classes and we'd like go to the gym and then I'd like go around to her office who all had like 'bevies' after work. And I worked for a career development site and that wasn't really the vibe.

Rachel: Oh!

Stevie: And then I'd go and drink tinnies with her workmates and be like 'This is so cool, this is London living!'

Gina: You're just picking words out that my Australian boyfriend has brought into the family in the last seven years. The tinnies and the frothies in Soho.

Stevie: The bevs in Soho ha. But I remember feeling like I was quite lost at that point. Like I didn't really know what I wanted to do and I was like waitressing and I really wanted to get into comedy but I didn't really know how and thought I was terrible. The early 20s and also we don't really come from money so it wasn't like, I think I was actually literally living under a table in Hornsey...

Gina: Yeah you were.

Cathy: It's horrible.

Stevie: ...and paying like £480 a month to live under my friend's table. I didn't have a mattress, just get one, get a blow up mattress. And then when Gina arrived it felt to me like she was living the cool London life that I wasn't to live, I was like ugh.

Gina: But I also was in that situation where I didn't have any money. So this random man who owns a pub said to me

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and my friend, because in advertising it's like stepbrothers, you're hired with a partner and fired with a partner, you do art and copy as creatives the two of you. Me and Jenn, Jenn was my copywriter and this guy called Jerry had a pub and we were sofa surfing for months because we didn't have anywhere to live because we're not from here obviously. And he said 'I've got a spare room, like I've got a storeroom over the pub you can stay in'. And we were like, we're going to get murdered but I guess we have to take it because otherwise we can't stay here and get a job. So we took this storeroom over this pub and I remember there was like a six or seven foot Red Bull can, you know those like promos, there was that.

Rachel: [Laughs] Yeah.

Gina: Then there was a like an old cabinet full of glasses and then there was a single camp bed and we both slept on that single camp bed for nine months.

Cathy: No!

Rachel: Nine months?

Gina: Yeah and Jerry, we meant to stay for two weeks and we ended up staying there for like two years and Jerry became like our dad basically, this guy who we were like, if we wake up and we're chained to a wall in the dark, I'll be like 'Jenn' and you'll be like 'Yeah fair enough' like [laughs].

Rachel: But he was just a lovely bloke?

Gina: He was a lovely bloke, he was a lovely older Irish man who I now adore. And me and Stevie were both struggling in London and I think that really helped. I mean Stevie, I had a 'glamorous' quote/unquote job because I was in advertising but in terms of like living in the City and having no money and like eating rice all night

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because you just can't afford to make meals. Like I was doing that too and I think that really helped us bond.

Rachel: But Stevie, you saw Gina as being, you just described it as her being a bit more ahead, a bit more settled?

Stevie: Yes.

Rachel: And you were more lost?

Stevie: Because Gina is like somebody that is much more extroverted and sociable than I am. The gap may have closed now that we're older but back then definitely. Like Gina would be the sort of person who would be like 'Yeah I blagged my way into the Groucho the other night and I saw this person'. Also in the room above the pub it was a very cool pub so there were loads of famous people always there. And so yes OK she was living on a mattress but her stories were like 'I saw x person, they all took everyone back to their flat and everyone was having an after party' And then my story was like 'I went outside and sat in the yard and then I came back in and there was snail on my head'. Like that would be the kind of.

Gina: [Laughs]

Stevie: And I can stretch it out you know as a fun bit but then it's like, it's just quite sad. Gina's was hard but also what you imagine.

Gina: Yeah mine had like London life attached to it.

Stevie: Yeah like hard London livin' like that's what was going on. And I sort of wanted a bit of that you know.

Cathy: But were you actively jealous or were you kind of wow, and enjoying it?

Stevie: I didn't get jealous. I just felt like I turned it inward and was like I have lost the plot! Like come on Stevie, what happened? You were like the clever one who did an English Literature degree, what are you saying, you can't

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get a job? But I'd also done an MA journalism and so I wanted to be a journalist. And there was a two year period in fact where Jo Williams helped me very much where I would go to Edinburgh and I would like review comedy and I didn't have any money so I slept in my friend's bath for like half of one month and then I stayed in like the community that Nish Kumar and I think Jo Williams all shared a flat, and they very kindly allowed me to stay for the two weeks that I was going to run out of money because they paid me like £10 a review. And then I did that, and I basically did that for like for two years. And then finally got a job on a career development site, which I had a lovely little job it was like 15 grand, no money, and also not cool.

Rachel: It wasn't what you wanted to do.

Stevie: You don't feel good being like 'I work for a career development site' whereas Gina's job sounds so glamorous.

Rachel: Yeah.

Stevie: And also Gina was very, very good at social media much earlier than I was. I actually still struggle with it now but Gina was very good at like, so there was a great thing that we talked about on our podcast that we might delete later. Gina put up a picture and you were like 'Just living the life, working in London, hard graft'.

Gina: The first picture yeah.

Stevie: And she was doing a free internship [laughs].

Gina: Yeah it was me on a sofa in a B&B ad agency and I was like 'First job, loving it.' And then when I look back on it I was like, you weren't getting paid you asshole, why did you say that? It just made you look like you had a job.

Cathy: Because she knew how to spin it. She knew how to spin it.

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Stevie: She did and so I think the equivalent was it was the first real thing of like, oh I'm looking at what my sister is doing online as well, and it seems so cool. But then whenever we'd hang out it would always be like, it was so nice because we were becoming friends.

Gina: Yeah.

Stevie: And Gina would like help me out, she's let me [laughs] but like she'd let me come to her events.

Gina: [Laughs] I love this.

Stevie: And if I ever had something, OK I then started to work for not better but more exciting sounding magazines and I'd get invited to events and then she would come to mine. And then she got me into her gym and I was like, cool! I'm like a woman just like working out after work you know? It's all about that like I've got a Starbucks, I'm walking down the street and I'm in London.

Gina: The image of yourself that you wanted yeah, the image that you wanted to be.

Stevie: Yes.

Gina: And apart from the time that we went to an event around about that period where it wasn't an event, it was Gillette, were I think creating a new razor. And we went! Because there's free drinks.

Stevie: No you pushed the Spaniard.

Gina: Stevie I'm trying to get to that.

Stevie: Oh sorry [laughs]

Cathy: [Laughs]

Gina: What do you think I'm talking about the razor? Yeah and we often went to these things because there was like free drinks.

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Stevie: And free food sometimes.

Gina: Yeah. And so we'd go to these things. And we went and I think I was wearing like a little mini dress or something and Stevie was in like a suit, like a full suit with her hair back and she was like 'I just don't look cool. You look so pretty and I just look so androgynous and I just don't feel cool'. And like she was upset about it.

Cathy: Aww.

Stevie: Having said that just to be clear I don't think I was literally like 'You look cool and I look androgynous' I think what was happening was Gina was constantly getting chatted up and I was just sort of sat behind her. But I didn't have anyone to talk to. So I was a bit like I just sat behind her like I don't know how to be and I don't know what. And Gina is very sociable anyway. So I felt really like, oh I feel like I've come to this event I'm sort of dragging you down a bit.

Gina: Yeah.

Stevie: And also I'm wearing a suit and I feel...

Gina: And so we had like a back and forth about that and I was like no. And she was like 'You're getting chatted up' and I was like 'No I'm not, I'm just talking to people'. And she was like 'That's what that is' and I was like 'Oh'.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Gina: Which is often a thing with me, it's like because every stranger is a friend waiting to be made and Stevie is like 'That guy is hitting on you' and I'm like 'Oh right' [laughs]. And then we went outside and then we got into an argument about it because she was upset and I was like 'Why are you upset?' and she was like 'You don't get it!' and I was like 'Ah!' and we were drunk obviously. So we got into an argument on Oxford Street and then this guy came up behind me and grabbed my ass and Stevie like

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immediately switched her anger from me to him and was like 'Fuck off!' and I turned around and I pushed him really hard but I pushed him into a lamppost and he smashed his head and he was bleeding. And I was like 'Oh my God, what the fuck?' And he was like 'I didn't fucking touch your ass' and there's that moment where you come out of yourself and you're like, what are we doing? Like this is awful.

Stevie: Do you remember the end of that story though? Because his girlfriend came over, mistook me for you...

Gina: Oh yeah!

Stevie: ...and punched me in the face.

Rachel: No!

Gina: Yeah she punched you yeah, she thought you were me.

Stevie: She went 'Fuck you!' and then punched me and then I started crying.

Gina: And so you started screaming.

Stevie: I was angry, I was crying, also I hadn't really seen Gina push this man so I was just like this woman just came up and punched. And that was the point where we were like OK we just need to like reassess.

Gina: Yeah.

Stevie: We've got a lot to talk about, got a lot to chat about.

Gina: There's stuff going on here, we need to talk about it, yeah.

Stevie: I've always been very jealous of Gina's ability to be sociable in just any, and like blag our way into events and I'm like how do you do that? Because when you go up and they go 'No you can't come in' I go 'OK I'm sorry' and then I walk away.

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Cathy: But that shifts. Because we had that. Rachel was incredibly cool, men fancied her. I was sitting, horrific all the rest of it. And it changes, she's now become socially anxious and you know. And I remember my first week when I moved to London I got myself a runners job, I had no money, I was sleeping on people's floors. And I walked through the centre of Soho and I had that feeling, I'm in Soho, check me, come on.

Rachel: Yeah.

Cathy: I'm going to a bloody TV party, it's all going on. And a guy in a suit walked past me, slammed me between the legs, and carried on.

Rachel: [Draws breath shocked]

Cathy: I burst into tears, in the middle of a really busy Soho, nobody helped me!

Rachel: Ugh.

Cathy: So I was like, OK I'm going home now to Cheltenham, I am not going back to London. It was you know, but I felt like I was there living the life in London and then bash it all went.

Rachel: Yeah, yeah.

Cathy: It's unbelievable.

Gina: That's horrible.

Cathy: Yeah.

Gina: Because you believe that you have an image of the City life.

Cathy: Yes!

Gina: And then you realise that City life, there's like assholes everywhere.

Cathy: Yes!

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Gina: And guys will just grab your ass and you can't control it and you're like, oh I can control this, this is going to be amazing.

Cathy: Mm. Mm.

Rachel: Yeah, no.

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

[Promotion for Who Are You Wearing?]

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

Rachel: So is there a world you can imagine, because you were close proximity to each other in London. What if you hadn't been? What if one of you had worked in wherever and one was in London? How could things have been?

Stevie: It's a good point. I think it maybe would have taken longer for us to become close, like we are now. But I mean I still feel like something, because we like congregate at home at Christmas and a couple of times throughout the year.

Gina: Yeah our family is very close.

Stevie: I think it would take, and what did happen was like that moment where one of you goes beyond being like 'Hey how's it going?' 'Oh I'm great' and one of you is like 'I'm sad' and then the other one is like 'I'm here'. And I think that's also maybe what flipped our relationship a little bit because when I was at uni I deferred my second year because I, well to be honest got depression really. And I didn't know, I'd just never experienced anything like it, I didn't know what was going on, I just was very confused and don't really remember much of it actually so it's not very great talking about it because it's like a blank. But I found a letter that Gina had written me being like 'You're so great and I look up to you and it's OK'.

Rachel: Aww.

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

- Stevie: And it was so sweet, I don't know why I did that silly voice.
- Cathy: She doesn't talk like that, she doesn't talk like that.
- Stevie: I know but she's only little.
- Gina: But she thinks I'm tiny and small yeah.
- Cathy: [Laughs]
- Stevie: Hello. And then that was when you came to stay like that year.
- Gina: Yes.
- Stevie: When I restarted my year I was much better and that kind of brought us together a little bit so I feel like, yeah it takes that doesn't it?
- Gina: I have definitely felt like there's been periods of time where you were struggling where I've taken on the role of big sister.
- Rachel: Mm.
- Stevie: Massively and I feel really guilty about that because I'm supposed to be that.
- Gina: No, no you shouldn't. Because I actually just loved being there for you. Because as the little sister you never get to do that for anyone. You're always the little one that's like oh ha, ha you're tiny and mental and it's like ha, ha, and there's never any like responsibility and I'm a very like, very like, is everyone OK? I want to make everyone to be OK, let's make sure, let's talk about everything. I just want to make everyone OK all the time.
- Stevie: Yeah.
- Gina: So when Stevie was struggling I like almost stepped into that role like just ready to do it because I just really wanted to help her but also like as a little sister I really

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

wanted to be able to like be there for someone because everyone was just there for me as a little one all the time.

Cathy: Mm, mm.

Rachel: Yes.

Gina: And that's when we got a lot closer then.

Stevie: And I don't often feel like I, now it's slightly different because you feel more comfortable but I felt like I was like letting down the roles. It was like oh I need to be, and that's maybe as well why I felt a bit like I've got this stupid job and Gina is doing really well just like I should be more sociable because I should be like helping Gina do everything.

Cathy: Yeah that's how I felt.

Stevie: I don't know about you guys but it kind of averages out as you get older and you kind of realise, like when Gina was 13 and I was 15, I remember I bought a Lincoln Park hoody and Gina wanted to get one and I was like 'But you don't even listen to the album, you don't even know!'

Rachel: [Laughs]

Gina: She like kicked off so much and then do you remember dad said, you were like 'She doesn't even like the music, she's just getting it for the aesthetics' you didn't use the word aesthetics.

Stevie: [Laughs]

Gina: And then dad was like 'Yeah you're a sheep because you're following them and she's a sheep following you, you're all sheep. It's the same thing'. And we were like...

Stevie: Shut up!

Gina: Shut up! And then I was like 'It's all right because I'm into The Rasmus'.

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

- Stevie: I wore like a dog collar so I was like, now is a dog collar like a priest or is it the one with the spikes on it?
- Cathy: No that's a priest, a dog collar's a priest.
- Rachel: Yeah.
- Stevie: I wore the one with the spikes coming out of it, I did not wear a priest's dog collar.
- Cathy: I was slightly concerned [laughs].
- Stevie: That would be unique. But I remember I once wore a Slinky as a bracelet, it's like what are you doing?
- Gina: Stop.
- Stevie: I'm just so out there and no one can like rein me in. And but then obviously everyone was dressed like that at that time so I was not. But then when we got older what was nice is that now Gina is very like a fashion queen and so I am consistently buying things because she's wearing them and being like 'I'm so sorry I've bought the shoes that you've bought', it's fine. And it's actually quite a relief to be able to say 'I like your earrings and I want them and I bought them and can I wear them too?' And her being like 'Yeah!' Or she gives me shoes, sometimes she gets sent shoes or she gets things and she's like 'Oh they don't quite fit' and I'm like 'I'll take them!' and it's nice and quite refreshing to not be like worried about that and be like, oh no I should be doing that because I'm the bigger one, like it's fine.
- Gina: Now we're just friends and we're on an even.
- Rachel: Yeah it's an even keel. Can I just ask about any more rows? Because I feel there will be some good stuff in there. From childhood rows, any other? Because that was brilliant, that one was really good. I can see how you both have been feeling but.

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

- Gina: I think you punched me once, but I can't really remember why.
- Stevie: Well you used to attack me. Do you remember?
- Gina: No.
- Stevie: Yes you did, but I also would like give you a good wallop.
- Gina: Why?!
- Cathy: She doesn't remember [laughs].
- Stevie: Well basically you get to a stage, Gina was very, very small and skinny for a very long time. Whereas I developed much earlier.
- Gina: [Laughs] I was like a rubber chicken.
- Stevie: Yeah you were, you were like a little rubber chicken and I look like a sort of 30-year-old woman when I was like 13.
- Gina: [Laughs]
- Stevie: I had a full build. No I've like seen pictures, I'm like stacked in the front but also just like I was 5'10" like you're 14, how?!
- Gina: Yeah [laughs].
- Stevie: And so we'd get into fights and she'd annoy me and I'd like push her or whatever. But like I obviously couldn't you know absolutely go at her because she was half my size. This is why I'm projecting onto you, I imagine you always felt like 'Well I'm small and you're always able to do it'.
- Gina: Yeah.
- Stevie: And you would like launch, to try to overcompensate, you would launch yourself, you'd do a run up and like launch yourself at me.
- Gina: [Laughs]

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Stevie: There was one time when you did that and I think I tried to kick you and then I like kicked the wall and twisted my ankle and couldn't walk on it for ages which was really just like very frustrating.

Gina: [Laughs] Oh my God I have no memory of any of this.

Stevie: But the arguments were always pathetic, it was like 'I want to go swimming!'

Gina: Yes. Yes.

Stevie: OK we'll go swimming.

Cathy: So there was never hatred?

Stevie: No. For that moment like I hated her but there was no overarching.

Gina: I remember getting really annoyed about, I remember thinking Stevie was really fucking stupid about fucking sorry I'm swearing because I'm annoyed about it!

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

Gina: About fucking I was like you're only 15, no. About like borrowing things, like I'd be like 'Can I wear that?' or like 'Can I use that?'

Rachel: Yes.

Gina: And you'd be like 'No it's mine' and I'd be like 'Yeah but if you can't borrow stuff from your sisters then who do you borrow stuff from?'

Rachel: Yes, yes.

Gina: And she was so like 'No that's mine' and I was like 'Why?' and then she would do it to me and I'd be like 'It's mine' and then she's be like 'You!' [laughs]. And I remember being like you're...

Rachel: We did exactly the same!

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

Cathy: Yes what was that about?

Rachel: She wouldn't let me read Just 17, she was like 'You're too young' she wouldn't let me borrow. Yeah it's the same, because it's territorial.

Gina: Yeah it is.

Rachel: You're older and you're like this is our thing, this is my thing. And as the smaller ones they wouldn't let us have any of it, so yeah that's...

Stevie: So like Gina would sometimes be able to do things a bit earlier than I could because you know she's the second one.

Rachel: Second child.

Stevie: And I'm like that's not fair, I want to be able to do it. And that would really piss me off. But now we can borrow each other's clothes, that's fine.

Gina: Now we're all over that. We had an argument, not an argument actually, it was, I always struggle to find the word for something that isn't an argument but it's just a discussion where everyone's crying and everyone feels hurt but they're trying to understand each other. Like what's that do you know what I mean?

Stevie: [Laughs]

Gina: Like a tearful tense discussion about and this is about three years ago. Which was I had started the work I do now which is like activism work and I'd launched this campaign to change the law in England and Wales and I was like going through it and trying to do it, and my profile was raising quite dramatically because it was clear that I was going to change the law in the end. And it was at the end of the law change, and there was a moment where I got an offer to write a book about activism. They wanted me to write about changing the law and I didn't want to write about that because it's very specific and it's

very like 'I changed the law, come find out how' so that's not my vibe at all. It was more like let me write a toolkit that like people can go into and it's helpful and practical. So I took that, and I was going to write that. And something was happening in Stevie's life at the exact same time where she was struggling with something and so I was kind of going like this up, and Stevie was kind of struggling with something at the same time parallel. And Stevie has always been a writer and I haven't really. Like I've written articles here and there because Stevie has helped me out by saying 'They might take your pictures, here's how you write a pitch' etcetera, etcetera. But I'd not done a lot of it, I'd done a handful of it, I wasn't really a writer at that point. And so that was Stevie's thing and it always has been and I've always been pictures, I was an art director, I wasn't a copywriter for a reason. And so I got this book deal and I was getting quite successful and Stevie at a Halloween party introduced me as an influencer to someone, she said 'This is my sister she's an influencer'. And I at that point was really struggling with the concept that people would describe me as that because obviously I was in the throes of this incredibly heavy traumatic thing which was trying to change the law on your own for the whole country. And it was so involved and so heavy and messed me up so much. And so the concept that because my followers had gone up people would introduce me as an influencer was like 'What are you talking about? That's literally not what I do, I've just got followers because I've done all this stuff'. And I got quite upset about it. And so we had this argument or discussion over dinner at home.

Stevie: On Christmas day.

Gina: It was Christmas and we were sitting at the dinner table and mum and dad were left and right. And what often happens in our family discussions is like, we were talking about this yesterday, it's very boring but I don't find it boring, I find it fascinating. Like there isn't a real

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

hierarchy in our family between the four of us. And what happens is that like someone's hurt, there's discussion and some people are upset and everyone is emotional but there's a clear like we're trying to understand each other through the argument. It doesn't get past the point where it's just like 'I'm annoyed and you're an asshole' that doesn't really happen. It's like OK yes I'm trying. And mum and dad were mediating while me and Stevie were just fully crying.

Stevie: And shouting at each other.

Gina: And me going like 'I'm not an influencer!'

Stevie: And I was like 'But what's wrong with that?!'

Gina: 'There's nothing wrong with it'.

Stevie: And I was like 'I didn't just go hey my sister the influencer' I was like 'This is my sister she's an influencer, and she's like changing the law'. Like I said that!

Gina: And I was like 'You didn't, you think you did!' and then it came out. Stevie was like 'Well I'm having a hard time, all this stuff is happening for you and it's weird and I'm trying to adjust to it'. And I was like 'I'm sensitive because you're a proper writer and like you're really academic and all this stuff.

Cathy: Yeah.

Gina: And you're calling me an influencer and I'm feeling like I'm the little sister who's like just doing some stuff on Instagram'.

Cathy: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Gina: And so we were both hurting but we were just fully crying. And mum and dad were going 'What I'm hearing there'.

Stevie: 'What's an influencer?' [laughs]

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Gina: Yes [laughs]

Stevie: Literally.

Gina: Dad's like saying like 'I'm hearing from Stevie that she's calling you an influencer but maybe her definition of what that is different to what your definition'. And I was like yes [laughs] It's exhausting.

Stevie: But then it's very helpful because when you have those things like afterwards, like then immediately I just understood what you meant more you know. But also it's just such a silly thing to have an argument about on Christmas day.

Gina: Classic.

Cathy: How did it end?

Gina: It ended with Stevie saying, because Stevie did a whole show on social media and she often takes the Mick out of social media culture which is why I was like 'You must hate me'. And so it ended with Stevie being like 'Oh I'm taking the Mick out of it but I'm not taking the Mick out of you because I don't think of you like that at all'.

Stevie: Yeah I was very clear, now I understand but I didn't think an influencer was a bad thing, I was actually quite proud. Because when you say that it's like yeah go online and see what she's doing sort of implication. And then I understood that that wasn't what she was getting at and I had to just be really clear that I think she's great. And whenever I take the piss it's people who I think have not got any substance and they're not really doing, and they're actually maybe actively harming how women think about themselves or how people think about themselves and Gina is the literal opposite of that.

Gina: Yeah and then I remember how you also said, then I understood from your perspective why you were maybe more sensitive about stuff because you were like 'All this

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stuff is happening for you and it's not happening for me right now'.

Stevie: Yeah I wasn't very well, I had like a chronic pain problem that then turned out it was just stress. But I was on loads of medication.

Gina: Oh my God it was so bad.

Stevie: And I couldn't really work very well and I was doing gigs but it was like I couldn't really move. And then Gina was doing all this stuff and I was like, I'm sort of stalling and I can't access. And then a Spaniard punched me.

Gina: No [laughs]

Stevie: That's the end of the story.

Rachel: But think about us because we work together...

Cathy: Mm, mm.

Rachel: ...we kind of don't have that, we've stayed on the same level [laughs] so it's fine.

Cathy: Yeah, yeah I know. Neither of us has been successful so it's bang on!

Rachel: Yeah exactly. So it's fine.

Cathy: But that's essentially why you two, you wanted to work together so you got the podcast together sort of talking about that. So that's got you working together.

Stevie: Yeah I think I'm right in saying we do really want to work together. It's just sometimes it's difficult to get what Gina does and what I do. The podcast was really great.

Cathy: You did, yeah.

Stevie: Two series of that. We would like to do other stuff and try and find another way that we can do stuff together but yeah Gina's work involves a certain amount of

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sincerity and caring that my job is just is like taking the piss out of that.

Gina: Totally, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Stevie: It's quite hard to find a thing that works but hopefully we will work together again and I would very much like to do that.

Gina: Yeah we've got some plans.

Rachel: Nice!

Cathy: You should do a podcast on interviewing siblings.

Rachel: Yeah.

Gina: Yeah direct competition!

Stevie: Oh my God yeah a rival pod.

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

[Promotion for Here to Judge]

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

Rachel: Do you get on with each other's partners?

Gina: Yes.

Stevie: Yes, that is nice.

Rachel: Aww, very well.

Gina: I know, so sorry [laughs].

Stevie: I know, we could make up some sort of feud.

Cathy: Can you?

Rachel: Yeah that's good, that's nice.

Cathy: Please.

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

- Stevie: I hate her partner. I'm not very good at making things up. No, yeah it's great. You know like...
- Gina: Don't try and find something.
- Rachel: No that's fine.
- Stevie: I think there's a thing where like because we're quite similar in how, we're just quite similar and so then both of partners are like, we're quite loud and whatever and both of our partners are incredibly chilled out.
- Gina: Chilled out guys.
- Stevie: Really nice men. So you're just like that works out. You know I've had my fair share of absolute shockers that Gina, we cannot speak of one of my exes...
- Gina: No, no, no.
- Stevie: ...because Gina just hates him so much!
- Gina: I will kill him yeah.
- Cathy: Go on then Gina, tell us about that.
- Stevie: He's just got an issue.
- Gina: I don't know if I'm allowed [laughs]
- Stevie: Yeah you are, you're fine, oh my God Gina all bets are off, let's be honest.
- Cathy: Go for it.
- Rachel: [Laughs]
- Gina: OK so one of Stevie's ex boyfriends treated her really, really badly.
- Cathy: Mm.
- Gina: And is not a nice guy, is an egotistical upper middleclass...
- Cathy: Comedian.

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

Gina: Insincere, arrogant asshole that has this like thing where he like acts like he's really nice and effusive 'Oh yeah everyone' but that doesn't make any difference if your actions are you're a fucking prick.

Rachel: Yeah.

Cathy: I think I know him.

Gina: OK well he's the worst and I hate him and because Stevie is now very happy she doesn't care.

Stevie: Yeah I don't care at all, but also because I don't care the thing is you know he had a very difficult upbringing.

Gina: I don't give a shit. You don't treat people like that.

Stevie: [Laughs]

Cathy: No Gina's right, Gina's right.

Gina: And that's my thing, I know lots of people who have had difficult upbringings.

Cathy: Yeah.

Gina: And they don't treat, they're not abusive men.

Cathy: Totally. Totally agree.

Gina: And he is. And so I actually saw him recently at a pub and I wasn't even smoking but my boyfriend was and I went up to him, he was like 'Hey it's so nice to see you'.

Cathy: Oh!

Gina: I was like 'Fuck off prick! Why would you even think you could come and talk to me?' but anyway. And I went outside and I was just like 'Yeah nice to see you ha, ha' I fucking hate that guy! Because I'm spineless. And then I went outside and he was smoking and I was like 'Can I have cigarette?' and he was like 'Yeah no worries' and he gave me a cigarette and then about ten minutes I asked him again 'Can I have another cigarette?' and he was like

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

'Yeah OK' and I went back outside and I went 'Hey just give me two' and I just kept stealing all his cigarettes [laughs].

Stevie: Really great way to get back. Really proportional way to get back at him.

Gina: So I hate him.

Stevie: Yeah that's the thing. But at the time what was nice was that Gina very much, you know that thing where you've got a friend or whatever and you're like 'Yeah you should leave them, they're a piece of shit!' and when they break up you're like 'Yeah great! Because he was awful' and then you get back together and you're like oh.

Cathy: Totally. Totally.

Stevie: Gina was very good with that because she would still say what she thought and then when we got back together because we just broke up all the time and got back together all the time. She'd be like 'Look I get it, it's fine' but also mm.

Gina: And mum was like 'I never liked that man'.

Cathy: Oh.

Gina: 'But it's your choice'.

Stevie: And she said that to me as well, she was like 'He's not good for you' and I was like 'I know!' But what was very nice is Gina and that kind of extends to other areas of my life. Gina is almost like a little army general that gets deployed to defend me.

Gina: I do, yeah.

Stevie: It happened with that situation. But also as well that was at a party that we'd gone to where we both looked fucking smoking, but especially me.

Gina: [Laughs]

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

- Stevie: And it was like, 'Hey sorry who are you? Oh what a shame' so it was great.
- Gina: Yeah.
- Stevie: And then Gina had nicked all his cigarettes. But the other instances where it happens is like on social media when I get a reply guy or thing and I'll just sort of be like ugh. And then I'll see that within seconds Gina is like 'I don't think that's an appropriate comment, you should apologise!'
- Rachel: That's amazing!
- Gina: There's two. One on YouTube, she did a sketch on YouTube and this guy was like 'Stevie you're so funny but you're also beautiful do you have an only fans?' And I was like 'Hey Phillip, maybe if Stevie could exist as a woman on the internet without you assuming that she does sexual content that you can consume that would be awesome, just let her do her job'. But then there was a thing with her ex boyfriend, so around the Sarah Everard disappearance my work just was like every new channel wanted me to come on and talk about it and I just didn't because I was just like I do this 365 days a year and this is a really hard week.
- Cathy: Yeah.
- Gina: And a lot of the narrative was like, hey guys like it was with the Black Lives Matter uprising back last year, where we were like hey white people just listen now. You don't have to say anything, we don't need your hot take, you don't need to say anything, just listen and learn. We did that with the Sarah Everard thing where we were saying 'Hey guys just listen to the stories, listen to women, read the books. This isn't the time for you to come out and show us what you're doing or even be like, hey can you teach me?' Just listen. And that was the main narrative and I saw Stevie's ex boyfriend because he's got this shit sketch group on TikTok.

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Stevie Martin and Gina Martin

Stevie: Oh my God I don't know if we can say that [laughs].

Cathy: Oh I know who it is.

Gina: No it's fine, it's fine. Disclaimer my views are my own, my views are my own. So I think they're crap.

Cathy: It's Richard Osman.

Gina: Yes, yeah Stevie and Richard Osman. And he did this sketch which was like 'I'm a predator ha, ha, look at my willy!' The week of Sarah Everard. And the concept was like how to spot an abuser or something and there was two of them and this guy was like 'Are you an abuser?' and he's like 'No but touch my willy I'm flashing'

Stevie: But he used the # that men should have been using.

Gina: That everyone was using #notallmen.

Rachel: Ugh.

Stevie: And it was like you've jumped on this # to like promote your comedy.

Rachel: No. No.

Gina: And that's peak him, that's what he's like. That gives you an idea of what he's like and I was like 'Stevie will you allow me to come in on this?' and she was like 'Yes fine'. But lots of other comedians didn't want to because they're all attached to the same thing and it's difficult to call people out.

Cathy: Yeah totally yeah.

Gina: So I just ended up being like 'In the week where a woman died because of men like this that you're parodying, you can't jump on a #notallmen unless you are going to benefit from it some way, like you have to make some hot fun take on predators so that you can get likes from a woman dying, that's sick'.

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Stevie: And then obviously in every comedians WhatsApp group that I'm on which was screenshotting her going [Screams] It was really funny. But also you know that makes me go all like hot and scared.

Rachel: Yeah.

Stevie: Because oh God! But it wasn't me.

Gina: No it was me!

Stevie: If levelled at me I'd be just like, well I didn't know. I mean I did give Gina full permission and was sort of a bit like.

Cathy: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Stevie: So that's a great example of Gina being deployed...

Rachel: Yeah.

Cathy: Totally.

Stevie: ...on my behalf.

Gina: And her partner now is like the most lovely man that's ever existed and I absolutely adore him. He's like my big brother.

Cathy: That's brilliant.

Gina: It's really funny because we have a relationship where like we poke fun at each other so much where like he's like 'heh' and I'm like 'heh' and then I'll be like 'Shut up fuck off' and like we do things that are either crude or rude and we try and outdo each other.

Cathy: Aww.

Gina: Because we both love each other but we don't want to say we do so we're like mean to each other. And there was a moment when they first got together I guess it was a few year in where he was like leaving the apartment and I was there. And he just walked past me and was like 'See you later' and just ruffled my hair like I was his little

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sister and then he was like 'Oh' and he just walked off [laughs] And we have a really sweet relationship.

Stevie: While he was ruffling her hair I thought that was weird but it was really nice and then Gina went to me like 'Your partner just ruffled my hair' [laughs] You used that wording.

Gina: I was like that's really cute but we have a really sweet relationship.

Stevie: Yeah it's nice.

Gina: Sometimes he picks on me too much and I'm like 'Stop it' but that's because we're basically related now.

Cathy: So you would go on holiday together as a foursome?

Gina: Yeah.

Cathy: Which is just brilliant.

Stevie: Oh yes I would love that.

Cathy: Oh that's so nice.

Gina: That would be fun.

Stevie: We should do that.

Rachel: You should do that.

Gina: My partner is Australian, we met in Budapest. He's an Australian Joey from friends but not misogynistic. He's like 'Hey guys yeah'.

Cathy: Aww.

Gina: He's just super laidback and so adorable and really like sweet so everyone gets on and it's so brilliant.

Cathy: That's just boring. I know, I know.

Rachel: But taking the partners out of it for a second, what would be your perfect weekend away together?

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Gina: [Draws breath excited]

Stevie: Oh that's a good one.

Gina: Margate was good when I washed your hair.

Stevie: Oh that was nice.

Gina: Yeah.

Stevie: [Laughs] I wasn't feeling very well and Gina took us on like a break.

Gina: Put her in the bath and washed her hair.

Stevie: She put me in the bath and washed my hair and I looked out at the sea and had some tarot cards, it was just really nice.

Cathy: That's lovely.

Stevie: Yes because I think the only time we've ever just us two been away together was when Gina took me to Budapest Party Hostels like years later, for my 28th? No 27th birthday. And so Gina was 25, I was 27, I arrived and it was the moment I was like, I don't think I can hack this party life. I couldn't keep up.

Gina: You were like 'I'm just too old for this now'.

Stevie: There were so many jagerbombs and you'd get really drunk and then the next morning it would be like 'Morning! Jagerbombs?' And it would be like I can't, I actually cannot, I'm old now and that's OK. And I wasn't but it felt like that, it was like I've moved through a new stage. But we haven't actually been away together just us two.

Cathy: Do it!

Gina: I really want to go on a sunny holiday at a resort and we go out and have drinks and go to the beach and we've never done that ever.

Cathy: Do it!

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Gina: I'd love that.

Stevie: And everything is laid on for you so you don't have to be like what shall we have for dinner? It's like oh you go to the grand buffet, like something like that.

Gina: Yes, yes, yes.

Stevie: I want a grand buffet and a beach but also somewhere where there's not a lot of wasps because I don't really like wasps.

Cathy: I hate wasps yeah.

Gina: That would be amazing let's do that.

Stevie: Let's do that. Well we were going to go to Venice and then the pandemic happened. That's not really the same sort of thing as a sunny beach holiday. But now I've seen that there's a lot tourism in Venice and it's maybe ruining the beautiful city.

Rachel: Yes.

Stevie: So maybe we should go to like you know Faliraki [laughs].

Cathy: We do the Thames Path, we just go on a walking holiday together.

Rachel: That's brilliant.

Cathy: We just walk up the Thames Path and stop in B&Bs it is the best thing you can ever do. Because it's funny.

Rachel: Yeah.

Cathy: The people who live on the Thames. We've met the most extraordinary people and then you stay in these little B&Bs.

Rachel: Yeah and we love walking.

Cathy: And we love it.

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Rachel: It's so square.

Stevie: Wow!

Cathy: Do it, it's really brilliant it's funny.

Gina: That does sound good.

Rachel: We have to ask you, is there anything you would like to say to each other that you've never said before? Gina would you like to say anything to Stevie?

Gina: Holy fuck.

Stevie: You've said that before.

Cathy: Really?

Gina: Yeah I'm taking it too seriously now I'm like [sings] 'What is in my heart that has never come out?' I would like to say that uh, I? Oh no, no, no [laughs].

Cathy: Oh that's hard, it is hard.

Gina: We've said everything to each other.

Cathy: Yeah.

Stevie: It is difficult yeah.

Gina: Do you have one?

Stevie: Um No. No if I want to, wait.

Gina: I'm sorry that when we were younger I wasn't as there for you in uni as I should be. I do feel that.

Stevie: Aww that's what I felt like, I felt like you weren't either. No I felt like you...

Gina: [Laughs]

Stevie: ...you came at the exact right point.

Gina: And thank you for telling me my nipples aren't weird.

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Stevie: Oh you're so welcome.

Cathy: What?!

Stevie: She showed me her nipples because she was like 'They're too weird' and I was like 'They're normal nipples' and she's like 'I'm so relieved'.

Cathy: We'd never do that.

Stevie: And same with you, thank you for telling me that you've got one boob bigger than the other because I thought I was mutated.

Gina: No.

Stevie: I'm very, very sorry, because I was very mean to you in teenage years and I was very like 'You're annoying, you're so annoying' and you're not annoying at all. And I hope that that didn't contribute to you, which you have said in this podcast a few times 'I'm just loud and like mad' like you're not. You're very fun.

Gina: I appreciate that, thank you. Thank you I love you.

[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.

Rachel: Oh I haven't laughed like that in about ten years.

Cathy: That's was proper. And we've had quite a few rows so.

Rachel: Yeah, that's really, oh.

Cathy: She was laughing at her own jokes though.

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Rachel: Yeah I know but it was good.

[End of Podcast]