

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Alice and Henry Fraser

Cast:

Cathy Mason

Rachel Mason

Alice Fraser

Henry Fraser

[I Wish I Was An Only Child Theme Song]

Cathy: Dog update. So no just at the moment the thing that she's loving doing. So she's a long haired Cavapoo so she looks like a teddy. And basically every morning Frank takes her to drop off Buzz at school, it's an hour and a half walk and she always finds diarrhea, rolls in it and is covered head to foot so he arrives at the school with a dog covered from head to foot in diarrhea with lots of kids running over to play with the dog and of course as soon as they get within two feet they're like fuck.

Rachel: That reminds me of a dog. Do you remember when I did the...

Cathy: Oh no.

Rachel: ...voluntary dog walking. I worked for the Cinnamon Trust that was a really good charity and I walked this massive old age poodle. And it was this big white poodle and exactly that.

Cathy: Old age poodle?

Rachel: Yeah it was, it was an OAP. And every time I took it to the park people would come over and go 'Oh look' because it was this white poodle and then you'd get near and it's eyes were gammy and black and its teeth were half falling out and it was pretty disgusting. And the man that had the poodle who couldn't in theory walk was then spotted walking down the Holloway Road, tootling down I believe...

Cathy: [Laughs] Buying things.

Rachel: Yeah having a good time while I was out walking his dog.

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Cathy: Was out walking his dog. And his dog, I remember you saying you'd get there.

Rachel: It was in this tiny flat. And also one week I went around and he'd got a cat and he was like, yeah, yeah it's fine. And the cat kept falling out the window.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Rachel: But he thought it was absolutely fine and I think he was quite an interesting character.

Cathy: No and the dog would get out and pee about 12 gallons because it hadn't been.

Rachel: Yes! Yes!

Cathy: Oh man it was terrible.

Rachel: It was awful, it wasn't fair. So that dog definitely won't be with us anymore.

Cathy: Do you know what I need to do? I need to write down funny things that happened with the dog.

Rachel: Yeah but is there nothing nice? You never have a story that doesn't involve shit, escaping, or whatever. Is there not like, yeah we were cuddled up on the sofa watching a nice film or something.

Cathy: As I keep pointing out with the podcast, what is interesting about happiness?

Rachel: Right. On that note. 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.

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Cathy: Today our guests are comedian, writer and podcaster Alice Fraser and her twin brother Henry who's a lawyer, legal scholar and AI specialist.

Rachel: Very cool.

Cathy: Very cool? Fuck off.

Rachel: AI specialist is really cool in the future.

Cathy: You don't know what that means.

Rachel: I do!

Cathy: You don't.

Rachel: I do.

Cathy: You literally don't.

Rachel: It means...

Cathy: 007.

Rachel: No. I couldn't think of anything quick enough.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Rachel: So the thing is Cath, as ever you try to push this into the dark corners.

Cathy: Yeah.

Rachel: I don't need to try and bring in the light, I am the light, you are the dark. But...

Cathy: I am the light? Obviously I push the whole thing towards the dark corners because that's where I'm at my most comfortable.

Rachel: But the point is that there were some heavy moments in this chat. But it was very clear to us that they had a happy and fulfilled childhood. And the love and the happiness really came through. I have to say, and yes I

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blame you, that the Frasers were at pains to mention after the conversation their childhood was full of lots of silliness and laughter and fun with both their parents. And that their mum was a strong intelligent person with her own sense of agency despite being sick. So remember that when you're listening because it's a really open chat.

Cathy: Yeah I loved them. They were amazing. I know I keep saying that about everyone but I really loved them.

Rachel: Exactly yeah.

Cathy: They were just bright and interesting.

Rachel: And they live too far away for us to be friends.

Cathy: I know we can't pal up with them because they live in Australia.

Rachel: Yeah that's probably better for them...

Cathy: Well she's here a lot so we could try and pal her up.

Rachel: ...but it's less good for us.

Cathy: No exactly.

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

Rachel: Obviously you're twins, so we don't need to worry about an age difference.

Alice: [Laughs] Well I'm five minutes older so let's not forget that.

Rachel: Ah and is that important to you?

Alice: Yes deeply [laughs] on so many levels.

Rachel: Right OK. So you are the oldest. But you were both brought up in a Buddhist household?

Alice: Yes we were.

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Henry: That's right yeah.

Cathy: Tell us about that.

Rachel: Yes can you tell us more about what life was like growing up and where you grew up in this Buddhist household?

Alice: I mean I have a lot of jokes about this so it's going to be difficult not to go into material.

Cathy: [Laughs] That's fine.

Alice: But you know it was the '80s, it was a heady time. Our parents decided that they were going to be Buddhists and that they were going to bring us up Buddhist. Which I think is much like any other upbringing except you're not allowed to kill any of the little creatures.

Cathy: Aww.

Alice: And you tend to be, if you're having a tantrum you tend to be told to meditate [laughs].

Cathy: Right.

Alice: Rather than, I don't know what other parents do to children who are having tantrums. Naughty corners I guess.

Cathy: Does that work? Does it stop your tantrum?

Rachel: I think it's a good habit to get. I think as a child you can get a bit confused. You know the down side can be as a child you can get confused and think that you shouldn't emote you know. And I think that was something that I am very serious and I was a serious boy and so sometimes I thought that, always tried to keep everything under pretty tight wraps. Which is not really the point of the Buddhist doctrine if you want to call it that. But for a child I think it's hard to distinguish between being able to let go of something and then [laughs] suppressing it.

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Cathy: Yeah.

Rachel: Yeah.

Henry: It this sort of tense and aggressive way, yeah.

Cathy: But Henry you've got a daughter. So do you...

Henry: I've a daughter and a son.

Cathy: Oh you do. When they have a tantrum what do you do?

Henry: It's pretty tough, I mean my daughter is extremely wilful and she's definitely on the personality scale stronger and probably more powerful than me already at the age of nearly three.

Cathy: Good girl.

Henry: So I just survive it [laughs]. I mean, it depends like you know, if I'm just really pissed off then I don't think there's anything wrong with letting her know that that is what the response will be from anyone if you behave like that towards them. Depending on how tired I am, I can try and talk it through. But actually with her she's really similar to me in some ways which is that actually the best thing for her is to just have some alone time. Not as a punishment but just to like deal with it on her own without having to be observed and sort of judged. Which I think at the moment is what works the best if I have the presence of mind to think of it and to say 'Would you like to have some quiet time?' You know without any sort of connotation of punishment or reward or anything, just kind of neutral, would you like to have some quiet time so you can calm down? And she almost always says yes.

Rachel: Oh that's good.

Cathy: That's so good. So from listening to you on podcasts, you do lots of podcasts, you're both very calm. Are you both very calm?

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Henry: [Laughs]

Cathy: Were you both very close as kids? Can you give me some shit?

Alice: [Laughs] I think we both find it uncomfortable to be called calm.

Cathy: Oh.

Alice: I don't want to speak for Henry. But I find it uncomfortable when people say 'Oh you seem so calm' or particularly when someone says 'Oh you seem so organised' because from an internal perspective I don't feel always like I'm calm. I just feel like I don't take it out on other people if I'm not calm.

Cathy: Yes, yeah.

Alice: But as Henry was saying before, part of the thing of being brought up Buddhist is [sighs] for better and for worse, when you have an emotion you process it internally. And whether that, as a child you can read processing internally as just like squash it down! But as an adult you just realise, well I'll just take this away and I'll figure it out and figure out if there's anything useful I can undo with it. But yeah I think, I don't know, I don't feel particularly calm a lot of the time but I try to not take out my rage on other people. My constant simmering rage.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Rachel: But Alice, so with that upbringing, Henry you were saying it did feel like a bit of a repression in terms of keeping that down? Was that a fair description? But you know it's more confusing perhaps as a child to work out because you don't have the emotional intelligence. Whereas Alice how was it for you just trying to process it?

Alice: Well see I don't think it was a deliberate repression but our mum had MS when we were growing up and so she

was very sensitive to loud noises and screaming and all of that kind of thing. So I think the two different pressures, which is this kind of Buddhist privileging of calmness and then also realising that we could have a really big and negative impact on our mum's health by having tantrums or whatever, I think that led us to be at least externally quite self controlled.

Rachel: Right.

Cathy: Which is amazing. So neither of you rebelled? Because that's a very mature attitude?

Alice: I did quite law to become a comedian in my 20s [laughs].

Cathy: So you rebelled, yes exactly. But as kids did either of you rebel? Was one of you a troublemaker?

Henry: You rebelled more than me. I was extremely straight laced. I was good, I was very obedient. I don't think I ever did anything really rebellious particularly. Yeah I don't know, it's the same kind of thing. I rebelled against the forms of success that have seemed appropriate [laughs] or the kind of life that my peers went for. And I tried to be a musician, but that wasn't really because my mum's family was that but you know I was working in a corporate law firm. Didn't really hate it exactly but you know yeah like didn't accept that really what I should be doing is something like what I'm doing now for a long time. But as a result you know never established myself in any kind of career and I'm in my mid 30s now. So that's not precisely a kind of rebellion although actually I think a lot of my friends who were brought up and were told that they were kind of special and then realised at a certain point that they weren't [laughs]. You know or sort of had potential or whatever. And you feel dissatisfied with conventional things. I don't know whether that's rebellion or whether that's a midlife crisis, I'm not quite sure. I don't know what you would call that. But we were very good. It was mum who had the teenage rebellion

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when we were teenagers and there's nothing quite like seeing your mother secretly smoking cigarettes and then like trying to get rid of the smoke [laughs] when you're 14...

Cathy: Really?

Henry: ...to sort of put you off. You're like well she's got dibs on that so you know [laughs].

Alice: Yeah mum had a very bad depression during our teenage years and so she was the one sort of slamming doors and shouting irrational things. I sort of vaguely take issue with the idea that I rebelled. What I did was I skipped out of school and read books in the library, which is sort of [laughs].

Rachel: That's not traditional rebelling is it?

Alice: No.

Cathy: No, but it's still rebelling.

Rachel: And can we just ask, what was your father like throughout this? You know with your mother suffering the depression obviously, the illness. Can you give us a sense of your father?

Cathy: What's he like?

Henry: Well from my perspective now it's obviously different to how I was as a child. He was always without fail a very loving father. That was without question. There was never a sort of sense of having any inconsistency in his regard or anything like that. But he was very serious and very strict because he was under a lot of pressure I think. And like in hindsight I just can't believe that he actually managed it, you know like now that I have my own children. I can't quite imagine. But he was very busy. He was the CEO of a not for profit, but a large not for profit company that he essentially started. He was responsible

to a lot of people. And he kept that very separate from us, we knew that he was sort of important and he would go on business trips and wear a nice suit and everything. But he left that stress, or never manifested the stress to us. So we sort of always thought that he was just completely unassailable, that his kind of calm was unassailable. Which is quite something to live up to I think in a different way. But I think it was an impossible situation and he dealt with it pretty well. But as a kid you know when you have this father figure you construct your own sort of problems [laughs].

Alice: Yeah also it's interesting to see him now, since the death of our mother and realise how much of his rigidity and strictness was to do with holding it all together. That the way that my dad tends to approach things or tended to approach things through our childhood is this is how it's done. This is the proper thing to do. This is the right thing to do. To project this very great certainty about the world and about moral behaviour or proper behaviour or appropriate behaviour or mannerly behaviour or any of those things that he always seemed to know the answer. Which is a very reassuring thing as a child and then a slightly frustrating thing as a teenager and as an adult an even more frustrating thing because you suddenly realise that your parents are just people and that their certainty isn't necessarily admirable. That unassailable certainty in every circumstance isn't necessarily an admirable trait.

Henry: Yeah but he was a great dad, just to be, he's a great dad.

Cathy: Yeah. No, no.

Rachel: Well he sounds it.

Henry: And he did all the dad things as well.

Rachel: And yeah with your mother being ill and depressed and doing his job and he was a good dad.

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Henry: And studying. He did a law degree. He'd kick a footy with you. He taught me to play cricket.

Cathy: You guys all love the law don't you?

Rachel: Yeah you all love the law.

Cathy: You're all into the law.

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

[Promotion for Welcome To Spooktown]

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

Cathy: Tell us about you two as kids.

Rachel: What your relationship was like.

Henry: Yeah you want first bite AI? You want first bite or final word?

Alice: I'll take a first swing which is that most of my memories of childhood are us running around in our big garden. We grew up in a falling down house with a very big garden and we were in part due to the standards of parenting in the '80s and partly due to mum needing to rest, we were basically let loose in the garden.

Cathy: Oh OK.

Alice: To play and eat things out of the ground and hit each other with sticks and climb trees.

Cathy: That sounds amazing.

Alice: So my memories particularly of early childhood are very idyllic and I think fairly egalitarian. I think one of us would take the lead and then the other one would take the lead at various different times. I think there was a recurring feature where we would have a play fight that would turn into a real fight and my tactic for winning that was to

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pretend to cry and then when Henry came to check that he hadn't heard me, he'd punch me in the head [laughs].

Cathy: [Laughs]

Alice: I think I was the betrayer in a lot of circumstances. Does that jive with your memory Hen?

Henry: I remember different times. When we were really little because we were twins and the way that we were cared for, we slept in the same bed together.

Cathy: Really?

Henry: Yeah we'd sleep on each other's heads as a pillow, so we were very, very close as little children. And up until primary school really joined at the hip and very affectionate. And we stayed that way but then as you grow, I don't know, once you get into pre from 6 to 12 or something, you get very fighty. I remember fighting a lot and things like brushing, things like really...

Alice: Oh the teeth brushing incident [laughs] Let's not make too much of that.

Henry: ...were just awful. Like you'd brush your teeth and then spit on each other like accidentally spit on the back of each other's neck.

Cathy: Oh!

Henry: It was just like argh.

Alice: That happened once! That happened once.

Henry: It was like so provocative, stuff like that.

Alice: That happened once and it scarred you deeply.

Henry: Yeah.

Alice: Or you're sick and you come home and someone's drunk all your lemonade.

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Henry: Yeah but really trying to sort of torment each other in like small ways. And then as teenagers we went to different schools and I was very much preoccupied with trying to carve out my own identity. And I don't think that Al was quite so much onboard with that. I think you were probably happier being the twins and I was not wanting to always be the twins to the same extent.

Cathy: Oh.

Alice: Yes well also you were happy and successful at high school and I was extremely bullied and ostracised so.

Henry: Yeah.

Cathy: Oh right.

Alice: You know Henry had all these friends and quite a good social life and was also doing well academically. And I was quite withdrawn and weird. So I think I maybe tried to cling on a little bit too much.

Cathy: But were you withdrawn and weird? Because I always think, because we're incredibly close but if you were in a twin relationship and that close I don't know if I'd look outside or want anything from anybody else. I wouldn't want friendships and I wonder whether Henry you did and Alice you were quite happy with that bond?

Alice: Oh no I wanted friendships.

Cathy: OK.

Alice: I was just a weird enough kid that I couldn't have them in the context of a competitive girls school. And to a certain extent there was some level of choice there in that I didn't particularly admire or want to be like the girls I would have had to want to be like to succeed in that environment. So as I said, I would just read books under the table or I'd go to the library in class. I lived in my own little world a little bit as a way of coping with that.

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Rachel: And how bad was the bullying?

Alice: I mean I don't know how bad bullying in girls schools can get but you know people put chocolate milk in my locker or they'd put a jar of capers in my bag. Or just everyone would ignore me entirely for a week and pretend that I was invisible.

Henry: But just a sealed jar like a nice gift of savoury capers.

Cathy: [Laughs] Regift them.

Henry: Like poured upend just to be clear.

Alice: Yes.

Henry: Some capers from my secret admirer.

Alice: They wouldn't nice gifts, yeah [laughs] Yeah so these were open things.

Cathy: But Henry were you aware of this? Were you aware of this and how did that make you feel?

Henry: It was miserable to think of, it was definitely miserable. But you know I didn't know what to do about it.

Cathy: Go and punch them all, come on.

Henry: Yeah I don't really know, I don't really know. Even in high school you had a group of friends up until a certain point and then you kind of parted ways from them acrimoniously. And then that was when you had a hard time.

Alice: Yes I told one of them that her boyfriend was a paedophile.

Cathy: Oh no! How old were you?

Alice: 13, he was 25. So he was a paedophile [laughs].

Cathy: He was you're right! Of course.

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Rachel: Oh. So you lost that set of friends, OK.

Alice: Yes they wrote me a note saying 'You think too differently from us, never sit with us again'.

Cathy: Really?

Alice: Yeah.

Rachel: Oh my goodness.

Henry: Girls, girls.

Alice: Which was true, again, you know you can't really fault them.

Rachel: Oh my God.

Cathy: Whereas Henry you fitted in at school and it was all fine and you were doing great?

Henry: I think I had the opposite experience which was I take a long time to make friends. I'm not very trusting, I don't know what it is but I seem to take a long time to make friends. So I took maybe two years or maybe three years until I kind of worked out. You know I was friendly with a lot of people but I didn't really have such close friends but then yeah settled into having closer friendships when I was 14/15. But that sort of seems to make sense anyway because what does a 13-year-old know about who they like? Not too much, you know.

Cathy: So did you not share friends I'm guessing because you were at different schools you didn't have crossover friends?

Henry: No I would hang out with my friends.

Alice: Yeah sometimes contentiously.

Henry: Yeah I'd just be like 'Leave us alone, I wanna do boys stuff' like you. There was definitely that thing.

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Alice: [Laughs] Which again fair enough. Let me have my own friends.

Henry: Yeah.

Alice: And I was like but you have so many, let me have some of them you know [laughs].

Henry: You're still friendly with plenty of my friends now you know, like really friendly.

Alice: Yeah they were lovely boys.

Henry: And we had a good time yeah. Yeah they were lovely boys.

Cathy: So Henry were you embarrassed of Alice? And Alice I'm guessing you were never embarrassed of Henry?

Henry: I don't think I was embarrassed. It's just that I wanted to do like I wanted my own space. Yeah I don't think I was embarrassed.

Alice: No, I think I wasn't embarrassed of Henry. I was occasionally embarrassed by the occasional hand of friendship that was offered to me by someone who clearly just was interested in Henry.

Cathy: Right.

Alice: That I found a little bit you know, insult added to injury at the time.

Cathy: Of course.

Alice: But yeah I think in retrospect I don't think I would have fitted in, in another place any better than I fitted in, in the school that I was in.

Henry: I think you probably would have actually. I think you were too proud to make the change.

Alice: I was definitely too proud.

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Henry: Yeah you were too proud to just admit that it was not the place for you and you should have gone somewhere else.

Cathy: But could you have changed schools?

Alice: My parents did ask at one point whether I wanted to change. They asked if I wanted to.

Henry: Yeah you could have changed, yeah.

Alice: And yeah I didn't want to admit to having failed I think.

Cathy: Yeah, yeah.

Rachel: And so did you talk a lot to Henry at the time. You were close, you were talking to each other about all of this. Because it just sounds awful. It sounds like you had the worst time.

Cathy: Yeah.

Rachel: So when did it start to get better, how did it start to get better?

Henry: I went to university is when it started to get better. So basically from about Year 10 I was completely in a bubble and I would just be in my own space. I had a few people who I was friendly with, who I'd have conversations with. Or who I'd catch the bus with and so outside of the school environment they were allowed to be OK with me. And I think I sort of at a certain point people stopped being bullies and then it was just a matter of me being too proud to kind of try to dig my way back into the ornate social hierarchy of girls schools. So for me it was going to university that really changed everything.

Rachel: And you found your people at university?

Alice: Yes. Yes.

Rachel: Very much so.

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Cathy: And in comedy. So there's two things, if you both had problems as kids, would the other be the first person you'd go to or for Henry would it be your friends that you would turn to, to talk to?

Henry: It depends on the kind of problem. I think probably anything that was really personal or embarrassing or anything like that, I would probably talk to Al first. Because you don't want your friends to know, I don't even remember really. But just like if it was some sort of vulnerability that I didn't want my friends to know or like I was really worried about something. Or like I wanted to drone on and on about how I was into some girl and she didn't like me, then Ali was like endlessly patient and like sort of supportive. And like 'They'd be lucky to have you'.

Alice: [Laughs]

Cathy: [Laughs]

Henry: She was like very sisterly in that way. Whereas like you can't carry on like that with your 15-year-old teenage boyfriends, you know it's not done. So for that sort of thing probably. And then other things, yeah I wouldn't talk to her about at all. And gross teenage boy things were for gross teenage boy forums. Locker room chat, you know [laughs].

Cathy: Oh! Alice I'm imagining you probably didn't have a huge amount of partners when you were going through that. But did you like each other's partners?

Rachel: What as teenagers?

Cathy: Yeah I hated all of yours.

Rachel: Yeah exactly. And you didn't have any.

Cathy: I didn't have any.

Alice: Well there was one who had no conversation and so I found that one, because this was the time of landlines

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and so she'd call and Henry would be in the shower or something and she'd say 'Hey is Henry there?' And I'd say 'He's just in the shower, he'll be out in three minutes' and then she would be completely silent.

Cathy: Oh no!

Alice: And not make any conversation which I found very strange.

Rachel: Henry, do you know who this is? You know who his is right?

Henry: I can hazard a guess yeah.

Rachel: OK yeah.

Cathy: So Alice what did you say?

Alice: I did tell him that I found her boring and he said 'Well I thought she was mysterious but it turned...

Cathy: Oh that's brilliant.

Rachel: That's always a good one.

Cathy: That old classic. No that's great.

Alice: But yeah as a general rule Henry has always liked strong women. And for me, my policy was always, save any criticisms you have for someone who's a real monster. You know?

Cathy: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Alice: Like if you have to walk in on someone's wedding day and be like 'Don't do it!'

Cathy: [Laughs]

Alice: Have I ever given you any advice on this before? That was kind of my stance was let him kind of do his thing.

Cathy: And Henry?

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Henry: Yeah I mean there was a lot of sappy boys. But they were all right, you know.

Rachel: Alice is nodding.

Henry: Yeah but like I think both of us because we bite our tongues more often than not, you know admire people who just say what they think.

Alice: I'm always drawn to people who are forthright. So a lot of my friends are people who when you're at party and they stop enjoying themselves will say 'I'm done, let's go'. And I find that so comforting and so reassuring. Because it means that when they're with you, they want to be with you and when they say that they like you, they mean it.

Cathy: Yeah totally.

Alice: And I find myself very drawn to people who are honest, occasionally at the cost of niceness. Because I will be nice occasionally at the cost of honesty.

Cathy: Right.

Rachel: Right. Oh that's really interesting.

Cathy: Yeah that is interesting.

Henry: I think the older I get, the less value I place on agreeableness and niceness. And the more value I place on kind of integrity. It is pleasant, day to day experience, moment to moment, kind of interactions with people, it smoothes it over so you need some level of it, but actually nice people aren't always people you can rely on I think. I don't know.

Cathy: But it's also cut the shit isn't it? It's always cut the shit.

Henry: Yeah.

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Cathy: So when I first started seeing my partner, who absolutely has no capacity for the shit or the small talk. The first thing he said to me was 'You look like Michael Jackson'.

Rachel: Yeah [laughs].

Cathy: And that's not a great chat up line but that's what he said.

Henry: [Laughs]

Rachel: Henry nearly spat his coffee out then.

Cathy: And ever since then it's been relentless just absolute...

Rachel: But also you have no filter.

Cathy: I have no filter.

Rachel: Cath is incredibly, I'm much more controlled.

Cathy: You're nicer.

Rachel: I'm much more keep it inside. No but I have a filter but sometimes to my detriment you know because I won't be...

Cathy: But I think it's boring. I want to get to the stuff, not fanny around.

Rachel: And occasionally yeah it makes me cringe but you know I do admire it.

Alice: It was a real revelation I think for me. Like the idea that you can be honest with someone in an unfiltered way and that they are strong enough to take it is a compliment. And finding someone who you can be reciprocally honest with is such a freeing thing. Particularly if you're brought up feeling like you're very responsible for the wellbeing of the people around you in that way of having a sick parent, you feel really like you have to be so careful about people. I don't think I realised

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that you could have a fight with a friend and still be friends afterwards until I was in my 20s.

Cathy: Yeah you see that's sad.

Rachel: That's incredible.

Alice: And so the idea that you can you know be a little bit more loose, a little bit more uncontrolled or that you can have these expressions of anger or frustration and it doesn't ruin everything is so relaxing.

Rachel: So how does that square up with your comedy then? Is that how you ended up finding that path?

Cathy: Well that's an outlet for that isn't it?

Rachel: Yeah it's an outlet.

Alice: Comedy was for me a place where I could fail comfortably and it didn't matter that I failed. And in fact the only way to get better was to fail repeatedly and consistently and to learn through that process. And the other thing that I like about comedians is that you have a slightly higher than average proportion of people who cannot but tell the truth, are compelled to say the thing and there's something again very reassuring about that to me.

Cathy: Yeah and my impression of your childhood was it was very controlled because it had to be, everything was very controlled and thought through.

Alice: I don't want to oversimplify it because we had this really idyllic and wonderful running around in the garden childhood as well. And we were so loved and so nurtured and so well looked after, both by...

Henry: And trusted as well.

Cathy: Which is amazing.

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Henry: We definitely were allowed, well I was, I was allowed to go out with my friends as long as it was clear about what I was doing. Like I was rarely told 'No you can't go out to the movies or you can't go to your friend's place'. I wasn't controlled in that way. I was controlled in terms of expectations, standards.

Alice: Expressions of emotion, polite behaviour, that kind of thing. But then we were allowed to go out in the harbour in a leaky kayak and run away from a shark. Like we were allowed a lot of freedom in that kind of way as well.

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

[Promotion for Here to Judge]

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

Rachel: Was there an incident where you ran away from a shark?

Henry: Yeah.

Alice: There was indeed.

Rachel: Please can we here about that?

Cathy: Oh come on.

Henry: Well the words may have been said 'Put your legs back in the water, I need your legs in the water to stabilise the kayak otherwise we can't paddle away'. And she did, she put her legs back in the water. But anyway you can give the [laughs].

Cathy: Why would you put your legs back in the water if there's a shark?

Alice: I tell this story from the beginning, so context.

Cathy: Yes.

Alice: So there's a fancy school up the road from us called Cranbrook and they have a street fair annually where

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they sell things. And for some reason they were selling a kayak for \$20 which is about £10 and this was very exciting to us, I think we would have been about 12, maybe 13. We bought this kayak and it had a crack in the bottom.

Henry: Between us we had \$20.

Cathy: Nice.

Alice: We did and it wobbled and so one person had to sit in the hole and occasionally bail out the water and the other person had to sit on the back with their legs in the water to stabilise it because it was a very unstable thing.

Cathy: Uh!

Alice: And we went out into the harbour, out towards Shark Island.

Henry: We paddled out to try to get to Shark Island [laughs].

Cathy: What's Shark Island? Is it just an island with a load of sharks in?

Alice: It's just an island. There's not usually a lot of sharks in Sydney Harbour but there is usually some sharks in Sydney Harbour. And yeah we sort of noticed this reflection in the water that turned out to not be a reflection and instead it was the big sad shark mouth coming up at us and so I pulled my legs out of the water and started shrieking and I was like 'It's a shark!' and Hen said 'Put your legs back in the water' and I said 'I can't put my legs back in the water!' so that was that. But Henry paddled incredibly fast back to shore and it was OK.

Rachel: And you did put your legs back in the water?

Henry: Yeah.

Alice: I put my knees back in the water. So I didn't put my feet back in the water that was my compromise.

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Alice and Henry Fraser

Henry: Better to get bitten off at the foot than to get bitten off at the knee?

Rachel: Yeah exactly.

Alice: But I thought it would find my feet fishy looking and me knees it might not be able to identify.

Cathy: Oh no.

Alice: That was the logic for me was that the feet would be more alluring to the shark whereas it wouldn't necessarily be able to know what knees were, being that sharks don't have knees.

Henry: They were little fat teenage Ali feet. She's got very little sort of delicate square-ish baby feet.

Cathy: Oh my God.

Alice: [Laughs] I remember you sitting on my leg and drawing smiley faces on my toes, on the bottoms of my toes and it was so ticklish because at one point when we were like 13, Hen decided that my toes looked like little caterpillars. And so then he did smiley faces on them.

Cathy: Aww I like that.

Alice: Benevolent bullying.

Henry: Yeah.

Rachel: While we're on this, any other funny incidents? I mean that's not funny that was terrifying but obviously in retrospect.

Henry: Oh no it was so scary, it was so scary.

Alice: It was so scary.

Cathy: Yes!

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Henry: And it took so long to paddle back. I mean we had yeah probably the worst incident was when we were very little, just before we started kindergarten. We were not supposed to play with sticks but we did play with sticks. And we would have sword fights and one of these sword fights...

Alice: So backup. We had been given a plastic sword for our birthday. We had been given one plastic sword and it was incredibly beautiful. It had like a silver shaft and gold handle and it was for our fifth birthday and it was so great. But of course you couldn't have a sword fight with only one sword. So to contextualise...

Cathy: But why were you given one between you?

Alice: Because that's what happens when you're twins.

Cathy: That doesn't make sense.

Henry: Yeah that's what happens when you're twins yeah.

Cathy: Really?

Henry: Yeah, yeah.

Rachel: So does that happen a lot?

Henry: Oh so much.

Rachel: OK.

Alice: And our birthday is the 7th of January so it's quite near Christmas, so occasionally you would get a combined birthday Christmas twin present. One present where there should be four presents. The worst.

Cathy: Oh! It's like getting one walkie-talkie that's terrible.

Henry: [Laughs]

Rachel: Yeah that's hard.

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Alice and Henry Fraser

Henry: I don't know if the sword was a birthday present or we just sort of? Anyway we had the sword

Alice: Very beautiful.

Henry: It was great.

Alice: It was Jane who gave it to us.

Henry: Oh did she?

Alice: As a present. Yes. And it came with like a little shield and things, it was like a little set. And Henry and I somehow determined that I was going to have the plastic sword for this fight and Henry was going to get the dud.

Henry: The way better sword and I was going to have the cricket stump. Terrible. Useless.

Cathy: [Laughs] Oh nice.

Alice: Yeah I was going to have the cool excellent plastic sword and Henry was going to get the dud boring cricket stump [laughs] And well yeah it went wrong.

Henry: Well my memory, you know these things, you actually don't know how much of it is constructed but what I remember is that she hit me with the sword accidentally on the ear. And I just you know flailed out and the tip of the cricket stump went into the outside corner of her eye into the back of her eye.

Cathy: [Draws breath shocked]

Henry: And there was so much blood. So, so much blood.

Rachel: Oh!

Henry: And it was just like pouring out of her face. And mum and dad obviously looked extremely stressed about it and they whisked her off to the eye hospital.

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Alice: So I remember staggering towards the front steps and mum coming out and just like, coming out with the gushing of blood and then mum having me on her lap in the car and she was wearing a really nice, like one of her best shirts and I was just bleeding all over it.

Cathy: Oh no.

Alice: And I felt really guilty. That's my memory of that part of it.

Cathy: Did you get in trouble Henry?

Henry: I didn't get in trouble. That was so bad, it was so bad that I didn't get in trouble. Because we knew that we'd done the wrong thing. Like we knew [laughs]. But anyway we had these sort of steps, it was an old mock Tudor house, which there's not many of in Sydney that had been subdivided into flats. And that's why it had the big garden. And we had two flats, we got two and bashed through a wall to make it two. Anyway they had this very grand sort of marble slab steps that were very cold and cool even in summer and it was a very hot summer. And I was sitting on the steps, maybe even lying on the steps and just bawling my eyes out, just feeling so guilty.

Cathy: Aww.

Henry: And then my uncle who is such a sweetheart came and my parents must have just left me on the step and called my uncle. I think that must have been what had happened, or maybe he was there already. But anyway he just sort of showed up and said 'Come on let's go and get some ice cream'. And I can distinctly remember saying 'I don't deserve any ice cream'.

Cathy: Oh that's really sweet.

Rachel: Aww, so heart breaking.

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Alice and Henry Fraser

Henry: Oh it was so bad. And I think it still affects your vision now, so I do feel pretty guilty about that.

Cathy: Really?!

Alice: Well it doesn't affect my vision. So he'd knocked my retina loose and I had to have it reattached and I have silicone band around my left eyeball.

Cathy: Oh my God.

Alice: Which given that I am pregnant now, I had to go and get checked that I wouldn't pop it off during labour.

Cathy: Oh of course!

Alice: But it doesn't really affect my vision. I am totally fine. Though at the time I had to wear sunglasses inside after the operation. I had to wear an eye patch for a while and then I had to wear sunglasses inside at school. And I came to school late wearing sunglasses indoors and felt very embarrassed about it for a long time.

Cathy: Oh that's terrible.

Rachel: Aww.

Cathy: Did you hate him? You didn't hate him?

Alice: No it was an accident.

Cathy: See I would.

Henry: She hit me first.

Rachel: I know you would have done, you're not.

Cathy: Yes, OK fair enough.

Alice: It was like the time you bit through your lip and we went to the bathroom. We were jumping out of the tree and Henry jumped out and landed and hit his chin on his knee and bit through his lower lip.

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Cathy: Oh God.

Alice: So came up gushing blood out of his mouth and we both knew we'd done this terrible thing. Which was like oh no we've caused a fuss. And so we went into the bathroom and was sort of trying to clean up his lower lip and then his tongue came through the hole in his lip and I was like 'Oh...

Cathy: Oh you are kidding.

Alice: ...now we have to tell mum'. Like it reached that bar of having to tell.

Cathy: No!

Alice: But otherwise we tended to just sort of patch each other up and look after each other.

Rachel: Oh I love that, patch each other up.

Cathy: I know that...

Henry: But in hindsight I think that they were having alone time which was why we'd been told not to disturb them.

Alice: Possibly.

Cathy: Oh!

Alice: I don't remember that bit of it.

Cathy: Interesting.

Henry: Yeah when you put the pieces together.

Rachel: Oh my goodness!

Cathy: Interesting.

Rachel: Makes it even more, oh.

Cathy: I know.

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

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Alice and Henry Fraser

Cathy: Rachel will kill me for asking this. So you've never hated each other? Have you had an ice age where you've not spoken to each other?

Henry: Oh yeah, yeah.

Cathy: Go on then.

Henry: Well we had you know. Ali speak, we have a strange relationship to Ali's big kind of breakout in comedy. Because it coincided with mum being kind of terminally ill and then dying. And Ali did a show about it. And you know for most people it's very moving and sort of an extremely intense experience because there's laughs and then these really heart rending things. And I just couldn't, it was too much for me.

Alice: Yeah.

Henry: It was too much for me. And so this is at a point where neither of us was that good at just like talking about stuff. So I was so hurt. But I didn't know how to express that and it just manifested into sort of avoidance. So we weren't fighting or anything it was just that I was not going out of my way to be in touch. And I was in London, I don't know where you were, you were probably all over the place. And so that went for a year or two. And eventually we got it together to actually talk about it. And I think for Ali you know, you felt like my problems with you're doing comedy or that I kind of had some passing judgement on doing comedy. But I think for me it was just, I couldn't deal with that. It was too much for me.

Rachel: Yeah.

Alice: Yeah well so for me that show Savage was as a kind of creative exercise, an exercise in telling as little of the story as possible. It was so much about what I didn't say. It was a very razor thin slice of the truth. And the exercise for me was to give a little bit and then the audience

would fill in the rest for themselves. So for the audience it's a very personal experience because there are these gaps that they then fill in. It's so much about bringing the audience into that show. And to talk about these things that had made me so angry at the time, the show is called Savage for a reason which was that I was very angry about the ways in which various well meaning people refused to engage with the reality of chronic illness and just wanted to do platitudes. So it's a very intense show.

But from my perspective I hadn't revealed a lot in that show. So when Henry said that he felt like I'd been sort of exposing the family or kind of yeah that it was too much in a way, I was really hurt in return. Because I felt like I hadn't told this story, I had gone out of my way you know not to have my brother as a character, not to have my father as a character. In fact my mother isn't even really a character in it, she just appears in a few clips from a podcast that I did with her. So for me it was an artistic exercise and it was a tribute to our mum. And that to sort of feel like I had failed at that in the eyes of the person whose opinion matters most to me was really hard. And yeah just I think yeah.

Henry: It's not a sort of artistic failing it's just that for a different type of person which is me, from you know doing comedy about that. Just having jokes and then having the last recording essentially of mum talking next to each other. Like there's no degree of aesthetic accomplishment that can make that not horrendous. Or that's how I felt. But this as you know.

Alice: Yeah I understand that. And from my perspective there was no jokes in it about mum or about her suffering that made light of it and for me the jokes were there to force the audience to pay attention to something that I thought was important. Otherwise people would flinch away from this truth that I thought at the time was in

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incredibly important thing to make people pay attention to. When Henry finally spoke to me about it, I did understand where he was coming from. And we, I think probably still don't agree on it.

Henry: Nope. No.

Rachel: Well we just spoke to David Baddiel, didn't we?

Cathy: Yeah, yeah, yeah. So we just did David Baddiel and his brother and they did a show about their mother.

Rachel: Well David.

Cathy: Sorry, David did a show about their mother who'd just died and the affairs she'd had and all the rest of it. And the father who has Pick's disease which is a form of dementia. And that was tricky. Because he put a lot of very personal stuff up, letters, all sorts of stuff and that was difficult for Ivor because it was exposing.

Rachel: But actually didn't David say, it was obvious, it shows how well Ivor knew me because he said 'You're going to do it' you know what I mean?

Cathy: Yeah, yeah.

Rachel: 'Yes do it, but you're going to do it anyway'.

Cathy: Yeah, yeah.

Henry: [Chuckles]

Rachel: That's interesting.

Alice: Well for me the thing that Henry read as me feeling like he disapproves of comedy, I still believe that because I think just even the way he describes that, that juxtaposition between jokes and these recordings. As though the jokes were degrading. As though the presence of jokes in the face of seriousness is a degradation and I don't feel that way about jokes. I feel

that jokes are a doorway into truth that otherwise can be too difficult.

Cathy: I agree yeah, very much so.

Alice: Which is not to say that jokes can't be degrading and it's not to say that there's not comedy that is horrendous. But for me it's the same as a poem. It's a form of words that serves a function. And in this instance the function was to force people's attention into a space that they would otherwise avoid.

Cathy: And so Henry you still feel angry about it? Or do you have some sense of Alice's perspective?

Henry: Well I don't want to sort of just keep raking over it. I mean I'll just say, yeah. I think it's so hard to describe what it is that is so painful about it. I feel like one thing was that I felt like there are more people now, because the show's been so successful, there are more people now that know that version of my mum than know the real version, you know? That know her in the context of a really pretty wrenching conversation from that podcast next to whatever dick jokes. And I take Al's point that it's not fatuous, there's a purpose to it but it could never be like that for me. So really I should just never have seen the show, I just should never have gone to see it.

And the thing is like, I couldn't, like I would never say 'Don't keep doing it' because it was the source of Ali's success and being a comedian is so important to her. And so you know it just is what it is. And like now there's possible talk about getting it turned into a TV show or some other radio or whatever. And then I'm just like oh God we've got to go over this again. But like if that's what people come into you for, they want you to pitch that as a show, well you've got to pitch that as a show. But just can't expect me to like love it. Or like want to be engaged with it. Yeah, yeah that's kind of.

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Cathy: Yeah it's difficult.

Alice: It is this idea of sort of competing truths or competing narratives. Because obviously...

Henry: But I don't get to, this is the first time that I've got to talk about it to any size audience for example. So it's competing narratives but on narrative has a huge head start. So you can tell I still hold some resentment over it but I try to let it go. I try and let it go.

Cathy: No it's difficult. My partner, sorry to bang on about my partner, who's a comic, sort of you know when he started doing comedy it was like the most freeing thing for him. He just opened up and spoke about stuff and was very honest, telling me I look like Michael Jackson. And it was very tricky for his family. You know it was really tricky and it caused a lot of shit. But they sort of think differently.

Rachel: And that is one area because we sort of sometimes ask people if there's areas they won't touch on with each other. So obviously that's perhaps not fully resolved. But you are incredibly close aren't you? The key thing is, you're really close.

Henry: [Laughs] Yeah.

Alice: I think that's the key thing.

Henry: We are so close.

Alice: We are.

Rachel: Yes you are.

Henry: I mean we're grownups now so it's hard to describe how close we were when we were really little you know. Because you're so close to having literally shared the womb, shared the crib, shared the food. Shared just experiences, like shared the experience of growing up and very basic things of learning to walk and talk and everything. And then our parents encouraged us to stay

close. We were much more demonstrative and affectionate as kids and teenagers than most other kids and I think that probably weirded out a lot of kids. And then gradually like you have to have a grown up sibling relationship which is different. It's not all about cuddles as a cute 6-year-old pair of twins, it's about respecting each other's decisions and trying to support each other and understanding what's important to each other.

But Ali, we are close and Ali is also an amazing Aunty and like having children and recalling the memories of being a child and then also seeing Ali with my children it's like huge in terms of reminding me of how close we are. And Ali is also you know she's got a lot of love for them you know which is so nice. But obviously they deserve all the love, that's how I feel.

Cathy: Of course.

Henry: Everyone she love them that much but she's the only one among the few that give them the right level of admiration and attention [chuckles].

Cathy: But do you see each other a lot now? I'm guessing it's quite difficult. And in the pandemic how often did you see each other?

Alice: So there was this great time when we were both living in London and Henry was primary carer for his daughter and I would go over at least once a week for a full day and have some period of that time. And then when we came back at about the same time and Henry was in Sydney with his family, I would go over again and that's so great. And then of course he got this stupid job pursuing his dreams in Queensland which I've taken extremely personally. And of course the borders are closed now so that's really sad for me not to have the same amount of time with his new son as I got to have with his daughter. So I've had to make my own, boring.

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- Cathy: I know! When is yours due?
- Alice: Any time in the next month she will arrive.
- Cathy: So exciting. It's so exciting.
- Rachel: Can I go back, sorry, to how you navigated because again it's not something we've come across. How close you were as kids being twins, you're sharing everything, you know lying on each other's heads, sharing everything.
- Cathy: That's amazing.
- Rachel: To then navigate that...
- Cathy: Separation.
- Rachel: Separation yes. Obviously finding your own paths going your own way. I just hadn't thought about that before, that's quite unusual.
- Alice: Yeah I think in the teenage years it was fairly fraught in part because Henry had a successful teenagehood and I would say I had not such a successful teenagehood.
- Henry: What is a successful teenagehood? [Laughs] I mean come on.
- Cathy: [Laughs] Yeah exactly.
- Rachel: You had friends!
- Henry: It's on my CV, successful teenager. Everyone plays that up.
- Cathy: [Laughs] His best years.
- Henry: Yeah.
- Alice: And then university I think was actually good because I came into my own a little bit more. And we had like one or two classes together, which I thought was a really nice level of sort of togetherness versus apartness. So we both

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had our own social groups and we both had our own social lives and then we'd occasionally have a class together and that was really nice. Or to sort of reassuringly be sat behind...

Henry: It's definitely still too much.

Alice: Still too much [laughs].

Henry: Yeah.

Alice: Reassuringly be sat behind him in an exam or something, that was very comforting for me.

Henry: We would always sit next to each other in exams, like we wouldn't be in the same class but if we were in the same year in law you have to do whatever torts, contracts.

Alice: They placed you alphabetically.

Henry: Property.

Cathy: Oh.

Henry: Yeah so you'd always sit next to, that was nice, that was nice.

Alice: And then I went off to England and then I went to New York and so we started going in different places in the world.

Henry: I honestly think it was actually having to live in different countries to actually make not a clean break but to sort of actually really you know follow. But I think that's for a lot of people, maybe it's from their parents, they go away from their parents and then they grow up properly into their own identity. But then for me, for us, it was also being away from each other and sort of yeah.

Alice: Yeah because in many ways you know.

Henry: We were a terrible comedy duo for example. But like if we'd done that, Ali can you imagine?

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Alice: [Laughs] That would be so bad.

Henry: How bad it would have been [laughs].

Cathy: Come on Henry, come on.

Alice: So Henry would play the guitar and I would sing and we'd do this terrible little act in a competition. And then I got into Cambridge and went to Cambridge but the competition prize was \$5000. And so I said to Henry and my then very close friend Benita de Witt who is still, a very talented director in New York now, but I said 'What if you guys do the grand final? And if you get the \$5000 you can both come and visit me in England. How great would that be?'

Cathy: Aww.

Henry: It might not have even been the final, it was like the semi finals, I don't know what it was.

Alice: No it was the grand final because it was the money prize and it was at the Merrickville Town Hall that you had to go and do this bit that was mainly predicated on our dynamic as twins and the fact that we had decent timing off each other.

Henry: It was not predicated on that dynamic. What it revealed was it was just you, with me being the straight man. That was like what it was.

Cathy: [Laughs]

Henry: But that became immediately apparent when we tried to do it. Yeah it was like a musical.

Rachel: And what was it called?

Henry: I can't even remember, we just did dumb songs.

Rachel: What were you called?

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- Alice: Oh I don't think we had a name but we just did dumb songs and Henry would play and I would sing and then apparently Benita as me, and Henry had a nasty bomb.
- Henry: But we had banter. It was like a really bad Flight of the Conchords like if the Flight of the Conchords was terrible. Like really terrible.
- Alice: Yeah like that.
- Rachel: So would you ever work together?
- Alice: Well I remember Henry calling me after that and saying, 'I went to the car and wept' and said 'Why am I so upset about failing at something I don't even care about'.
- Henry: No it was just abject humiliation, I was like I never want to experience that again. Like I've gone out trying to make people laugh about something really dumb and no one laughed. And it was just such a terrible feeling. And I was like ugh.
- Cathy: Ugh. Because I want to know, sorry go on.
- Henry: No, no, you want to know. Guide me, guide me out of this hole [laughs].
- Cathy: No exactly. I want to know what you envy about each other but you Henry absolutely don't envy Alice's career in comedy?
- Henry: Oh?
- Cathy: So what is it you envy about each other, what trait would you have from the other?
- Henry: Well no I envy at Alice's wit and just sort of creative facility. She gets pissed off when I say 'Things just flow for you' and I still think this, 'You have no idea what it's like for the rest of us who have to grind. Like you think you know but you don't. You think that what you've done

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occasionally resembles grinding and it's like a tenth of what normal people have to do'.

Alice: Right.

Henry: You know so I envy that ability to like I think also school ruined me. Because I found before I learned to write an essay, I could write much more freely. And then once the structures kind of calcified, it's taken me years and years and years to become more fluent as a writer. Whereas Ali has this natural kind of organic recursive you know what are they called? The golden mean, like structures of things that she just writes in one pass like are perfect.

Cathy: Yeah right.

Henry: And they kind of fold back on themselves and then they're done and then she's like 'And that's my first draft' I'm like fuck off. That's my 42nd draft maybe.

Cathy: [Laughs] Exactly.

Henry: Yeah [laughs]. So I envy that, I really envy that.

Rachel: And Alice? Anything you envy in Henry?

Alice: Oh it's so much. I envy Henry's integrity and his kind of sense of himself in the world. I always used to be astonished that he could just go to a party and not desperately seek other people out. He would just sort of stand there and if people came and talked to him, which they would, that was OK and if they didn't then that was also OK. As a sort of a sense of security in himself. And he's also very honest and he has these very clear lines in his character where he'll be nice up until a point and then he'll hold his ground. Whereas I feel I can be a bit of a pushover.

Henry: Nah I'm a pushover too.

Alice: And then I'll often get my own way in the end but I'll like sneak around the side somewhere and do it.

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Cathy: Go through hoops.

Alice: Yeah I'll smile and nod and then go off and do my own thing but Henry will stand up for what's right in the moment. And also he has a lot of discipline. This idea of him grinding away it's very true and he's always had that ever since he was a small child. I remember him throwing himself at tasks again and again and again and again and again just to finally figure them out. Whereas I was always looking for a shortcut.

Cathy: Oh.

Rachel: We've got to ask you one more thing. Is there anything you'd like to say to each other that you've never said before? Henry? Anything you'd like to say to Alice?

Henry: Well I might have said it but I think you'll be an amazing mum. And you do so much for us and especially for Lucy and Len. And the amount that you love them you're going to love your own little one even more. And so I'm so happy for you.

Rachel: That happened to me actually by the way. Cath had a son and I fell so in love with her son that I decided yeah.

Cathy: She never wanted kids and then she fell in love with my kid and had one.

Rachel: Never did and then I thought that's really good, I'm going to do that. So yeah now I have a boy too.

Henry: Oh beautiful.

Cathy: Alice?

Rachel: Alice?

Alice: I assume that you know this.

Henry: Something mean. Make it mean! Do it just like totally undermine the...

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Cathy: Henry is on my side!

Henry: Yeah [laughs].

Alice: I can't think of anything mean to say. Look I don't know. I would say that yeah it was really hard when you didn't approve of Savage basically because your opinion matters to me more than anyone else's you know. Like our father is wonderful but he has his biases and his own things. And everyone else you know has their own stuff going on and I think you're probably the most objective person I know, or at least you try the hardest to be the most objective.

Henry: That's terrible though because I'm not objective with you because you're my sister.

Alice: That's true. That's true.

Henry: Yeah.

Alice: And I know that intellectually but emotionally I don't know that at all.

Henry: Yeah.

[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.

Cathy: I know but I'm only interested in the...

Rachel: OK that's going to be edited out. Right that's not good. Like a really moving moment and Cath's like 'Yeah but I'm only interested in the dick jokes!'

I Wish I Was An Only Child- Alice and Henry Fraser

Cathy: [Laughs] I didn't say dick jokes!

Rachel: No but you know what I mean.

Cathy: Well you've just fucked that up.

Rachel: Sorry.

[Promotion for Who Are You Wearing?]

[End of Podcast]