

# All laughs with Lisa

Relative Values

SHE'S taken morning radio by storm, tossing out one comment after the next on Hot 97's morning show with Ed Lover and Dr. Dre, as well as on "The Gossip Show" on E! and "Geraldo."

But Lisa — known on-air as Lisa G. — wasn't always so self-assured.

As she will soon confide in an advice book for women, Lisa, who grew up in Woodmere, L.I., made her share of mistakes along the way, the most serious of which was lacking self-confidence. Looking back, Lisa credits her sisters, Bonnie and Andrea, with helping her along on the road to stardom.

Lisa, now in her 30s and living on the upper East Side, keeps a busy media schedule but still reserves plenty of time every week to spend with Andrea's 3½-year-old daughter, Jennifer.

And Andrea, a Long Island resident two years younger than Lisa, credits her older sister with teaching her the meaning of sisterly friendship. Here's what they have to say about one another:

**LISA:** I remember when they brought Andrea home. I remember when my mother brought her out of the car, wrapped in a blanket ... that's how far back my memory goes. I never was jealous of Andrea. In fact, when I was younger, I was closer to my older sister, Bonnie. Andrea and I shared a room, and I used to try to sneak out while Andrea was sleeping. But I wouldn't just walk out of the room. I would crawl under her bed and literally try to sneak out to go play with Bonnie ... and Andrea was jealous of that.

We really didn't fight much. There's only one fight I remember, because my mother got it on tape: It's Halloween, and Andrea has this huge bag of Halloween candy, and you see me coming for the bag of candy, and we get into a fight. Then, it's "cut," and the next scene

She was always fun to be around, says little sister of Hot 97's morning deejay



**G. WIZ:** A young Lisa Williams poses for a goofy snapshot with the family pooch — unaware that her sister Andrea is making one of those tee-hee gestures behind her head.

you see is Christmas ... my mother obviously had to put down the camera to come break us up.

Andrea was the baby. I wouldn't say she got away with murder, but we just sort of let her go. In a lot of ways, she had it harder than us, because my parents didn't have a good marriage, and when Bonnie and I went away to college, it was just Andrea in the house with them. Looking back, it was difficult for her as a young teenager.

We were always friends. I guess I didn't realize how much of a sister she was to me until she was in her late

20s, and I really had to let her go emotionally. I'd felt that I had to take care of her. We had to separate at that point, because I wasn't growing as an adult, and all this energy I was spending on her wasn't good for her, either. I didn't have a good relationship with a man until I was able to let go.

What's really wonderful is that she's really a very grounded sounding board for me. She's very much an equal, my reality check. I talk to her at least four times a day. Part of it is that she has a youngster, so every time we talk it's, "I'll call you back in a minute." But

also, if I have a problem at work, I can always talk to her. I don't look at her as my baby sister. The only frustrating thing is that she can't set her VCR. I mean, here I am on television, doing "The Gossip Show," and she can't even set her VCR!

In my book, I have two chapters that relate to Andrea: One is on finding someone you love, and another is about how family is so important. It's interesting, because Andrea has been through every step of my career with me. She's seen the ups and the downs, and I respect her, because she has so much respect for what I do

and what I love.

One of my favorite things is hanging out at Andrea's house with her little girl, Jenny, and her husband, Harris, in the yard, with a barbecue. It doesn't get any better than that. I think you find that the siblings of broken families are closer than those in families who think they have no problems.

**ANDREA:** Lisa was just great when we were little. She was always very creative, playing the violin, and was active as a cheerleader and with the yearbook — all sorts of extracurricular activities. Between us three girls, we always had a lot of fun. And even though I was the youngest, we were all very close.

Some of my best memories of Lisa are when I would come home from summer camp and she'd be there, or sitting in the kitchen making cakes with her, decorating them with shingles and M&Ms, stuff like that. And now, with my daughter, she's planning to bake a Mickey Mouse cake with a mold Lisa bought especially for her.

Lisa was always witty, and started doing radio when she was 16 or 17, before college — she was interning. I was never jealous of everything she was doing, but I did admire her. She always worked very hard.

Her relationship to me was always more like that of a peer than that of an older sister. I lived in the city with her for awhile — we lived around the corner from each other — so it was nice having family. We'd do all sorts of things together. We'd go to the park, rollerblading, get ice cream, walking, go out to dinner.

And Lisa just loves my little girl. Jenny loves her Aunt Lisa. Every time the radio is on, she wants to know, "Is Lisa G. on the radio?" She calls her Lisa G. And every time the TV is on, she's always looking for her Aunt Lisa G.

Over the years, I think Lisa's personality has basically stayed the same, except that her confidence with her career has really blossomed. Being a single woman living in the city, she's very confident with every move she makes. She seems to have really learned from all her past experiences and relationships ... she's definitely grown.

I guess because our parents are not in New York, between Lisa and Bonnie, that's my only family here. Even though Lisa is not around the block from me in the city anymore, I always know she's there for me. Especially when I first had my child. She was great. She's a great aunt and a great sister.

— ANNE E. KORNBLUT



SUSAN STAVA

*“The only frustrating thing is that she can't set her VCR. Here I am on television and she can't even set her VCR!”*

— Lisa G. (left in photo with sister Andrea)