

Songbirds: 'Brother-Sister, Sister-Brother' Part 1

By **Dino Mahoney**

Characters:

Chris: Christine's twin brother.
Mark: Chris's best friend.
Christine: Chris's twin sister.
Michelle: A girl who lives in the same block as the twins

Synopsis:

Chris shows Mark the girl on the estate who he wants to ask out on a date. But Chris is very shy and cannot pluck up enough courage to talk to Michelle. Chris tells his sister about Michelle and she tries to teach him how to ask Michelle out by conducting a role play over dinner with him in which she plays the role of Chris and he plays the role of Michelle.

Chris: That's her... over there.
Mark: With the long hair?
Chris: Yes.
Mark: And she lives in your block?
Chris: Yes. She moved here last year.
Mark: Last year.
Chris: What d'you think she'll say?
Mark: Don't know.
Chris: Do you think she'll say, 'yes' ?
Mark: Ask her.
Chris: What if she says 'no' ?
Mark: She won't, she'll say yes.
Chris: D'you think so?
Mark: (Pause) She's a pretty girl.
Chris: That's the problem, I bet hundreds of boys want to go out with her.
Mark: (Laughing) Hundreds?
Chris: Well you can see how pretty she is.
Mark: She is pretty.
Chris: I bet if I asked her to go out with me she'd look straight through me and walk away.
Mark: No she won't.
Chris: She'll pretend she hasn't heard what I said.
Mark: I don't think she'll do that.
Chris: What shall I say to her?
Mark: Just ask her.

Chris: What, just walk up to her and say, 'Hi Michelle, do you want to go out with me on Saturday?'

Mark: What's wrong with that?

Chris: I couldn't.

Mark: Why not?

Chris: I'd die.

Mark: How else are you going to ask her?

Chris: Write her a note?

Mark: You could do.

Chris: No. She'll think that's silly.

Mark: Why?

Chris: Well I see her almost every day in the lift... or around the estate...so why should I write to her?

Mark: Ask her then.

Chris: I know, you could ask her for me!

Mark: Me?!

Chris: You could say, 'Excuse me Michelle... my friend Chris wants to go out with you on Saturday.

Mark: It will seem a weird if I ask.

Chris: No it won't.

Mark: She doesn't know me.

Chris: She doesn't know me!

Mark: She knows you better than me... I don't even live on the estate.

Chris: That doesn't matter.

Mark: I think you should ask yourself Chris.

Chris: Ask for me Mark... please.

Mark: I don't want to.... I'd feel silly.

Chris: Why? It's easy, you just ask her if she'll go out with me and then tell me the answer.

Mark: It's better if you do it.

Chris: I won't know what to say.

Mark: I've just told you, ask her if she wants to go out with you... it's simple. What floor does she live on?

Chris: Twenty second.

Mark: Well if you get in the lift and go up with her you'd have enough time to ask her out.

Chris: What if there are other people in the lift?

Mark: When do you see her?

Chris: She gets off the mini bus on the corner at about five and walks to the estate the side way. Then sometimes I see her going to the supermarket or over to the shopping centre.

Mark: You could wait for her, offer to carry her bags and then ask her out.

Chris: I've never actually spoken to her before.

Mark: So how come you know her name?

Chris: I heard her talking to someone in the lift and they called her Michelle.

Mark: Look, she's coming this way... now's your chance Chris... ask her.... Go on.

Chris: If she says 'no' I'll die.

Mark: Go on.

Chris: (Hurriedly) You say something.

Mark: (Soft voice) Hello.

(Pause)

Chris: She's just walked by.

Mark: Well you didn't say anything.

Chris: But you did, and she ignored you.

Mark: She looked at you.

Chris: Did she?!

Mark: Definitely.

Chris: When you said hello she looked at me?

Mark: Yes.

Chris: Oh my god! She looked at me.

Mark: Yeah.

Chris: How did she look at me?

Mark: Well... she just looked.

Chris: Did she think I was the one who said hello?

Mark: Maybe. She looked at you, she didn't look at me.

Chris: But she didn't answer.

Mark: She looked though.

Chris: How did she look? I mean, was she pleased or angry?

Mark: I think she was pleased.

Chris: Really?!

Mark: I think so.

Chris: Why do you think she was pleased?

Mark: Just the way she looked at you.

Chris: So she thinks I've said hello to her.

Mark: She didn't look at me at all.

Chris: Do you think she likes me?

Mark: Yes.

Chris: Fantastic! Oh thanks Mark... that's brilliant... thank you.

Mark: Look.

Chris: What?

Mark: She's still waiting at the lift.

Chris: Is she?

Mark: You can see through the glass doors.

Chris: Can you?

Mark: The lift hasn't come yet.

Chris: Hasn't it?

Mark: And she's by herself.

Chris: Is she?
Mark: If you hurry... you could go in and get the lift with her.
Chris: Um.
Mark: Why don't you. Then you could ask her out.
Chris: I think I'll leave it this time, I don't want to rush things, I've broken the ice with that 'hello'... I'll ask her next time I see her.
Mark: The lifts come.
Chris: Has it?
Mark: She's getting in.
Chris: Has she?
Mark: She's gone.
Chris: Next time.
Mark: She did look pleased when she thought you'd said hello.
Chris: Fantastic! (Pause) She didn't stop though did she.
Mark: No.
Chris: But she looked pleased.
Mark: Definitely.
Chris: (Sighs) She'll almost be on the twenty second floor by now.
Mark: I bet she's in the lift thinking of you.
Chris: D'you think so?
Mark: Probably.
Chris: She's getting out now.
Mark: Going to her door.
Chris: Getting her keys out.
Mark: Putting them in the metal door.
Chris: Sliding that back.
Mark: Now putting her keys in the wooden door.
Chris: Turning it and at the same time twisting the door knob.
Mark: Walking in.
Chris: Slipping off her rucksack.
Mark: Kicking off her shoes.
Chris: Taking off her blazer.
Mark: Going to her room.
Chris: Okay... enough... we can't follow her into her bedroom.
Mark: Why not?
Chris: Because I said so, that's why.
Mark: Spoil sport.

Music

(SFX: Front door closing as Chris comes home)

Christine: (Calling from the kitchen Sound of Christine stir frying) Is that you Chris?!

Chris: Yes.

Christine: I'm in the kitchen.

Chris: (Goes into kitchen) What you doing?

Christine: Cooking dinner.

Chris: What we having?

Christine: Rice with choy sum and pork.

Chris: Is it nearly ready?

Christine: Hungry?

Chris: Starving!

Christine: (Pause) I had a phone call from Mum just now.

Chris: What did she say?

Christine: They're in Shanghai now... one of Dad's relative's lives there... Mum said they were having a nice time and eating lots of food.

Chris: Did you speak to Dad?

Christine: Yes. They both asked how you were.

Chris: When are they coming back?

Christine: Ten days time. I said not to worry and we were doing fine.

Chris: (Sighs)

Christine: Missing them?

Chris: A bit.

Christine: Don't worry... they'll soon be back.

Chris: I wasn't sighing about that.

Christine: No? So what were you sighing about?

Chris: Nothing.

Christine: People don't sigh about nothing Chris... a sigh is a sign... it means... someone is thinking about something.

Chris: Does it?

Christine: Chris... something is on your mind...I can feel it.

Chris: It's nothing really.

Christine: Ah, so at last you've admitted it's something.

Chris: (Pause) It's nothing, just a... girl.

Christine: JUST a girl?! (laughs)

Chris: Why are you laughing?

Christine: The way you said, 'Just a girl.'

Chris: Don't laugh Christine.

Christine: Okay, sorry, tell me about her.

Chris: She's just a girl...

Christine: Who makes you sigh.

Chris: She's pretty.

Christine: Do I know her?

Chris: Don't think so.

Christine: She doesn't go to our school?

Chris: No.... she lives on our estate.

Christine: Which block?
Chris: Our block.
Christine: I may have seen her then. What does she look like?
Chris: She's not very tall and she's got long hair and a pretty round face.
Christine: I think I know who you're talking about... a short girl with long hair gets in the lift with me sometimes... she lives on one of the floors above us.
Chris: Twenty second floor.
Christine: So... is she your girlfriend?
Chris: Girlfriend?! No! I haven't got a girlfriend.
Christine: I know, but from the way you were sighing I thought maybe you had.
Chris: I wish she were my girlfriend.
Christine: Have you made friends with her?
Chris: No.
Christine: Have you spoken to her?
Chris: Yes, well, sort of.
Christine: What does that mean?
Chris: I was outside just now talking to Mark... and I saw her coming and as she passed us Mark said hello.
Christine: Mark did?
Chris: Only she thought it was me that said hello and Mark said she gave me a nice look.
Christine: Mark said?
Chris: I wasn't looking.
Christine: Oh Chris... my dear sweet little brother.... Why didn't YOU say hello?
Chris: I don't know... I just get tongue tied.
Christine: You're shy that's all... that's nothing to be worried about most boys of your age are shy.
Chris: I want to ask her out.
Christine: On a date?
Chris: Yes.
Christine: But how are you going to do that if you can't even say hello to her?
Chris: I don't know.
Christine: (SFX: Scooping rice and stir fry into a bowl) The dinner's ready... sit at the table and I'll serve you... and by the way.
Chris: What?
Christine: You're doing the washing up.
Chris: Okay.
Christine: And you've got to wash the wok as well as the bowls and chopsticks.
Chris: I will.
Christine: Last time you left the wok.
Chris: Did I?
Christine: You know you did Chris.
Chris: Mmm... this is nice.
Christine: Is it? Good. ... So, what are you going to do about this girl?
Chris: Michelle.

Christine: Oh, so you know her name.
Chris: I heard a friend talking to her in the lift.
Christine: Has she got a boyfriend?
Chris: I haven't seen her with anyone... just with a few of her girlfriends.
Christine: You're going to have to be brave Chris and talk to her yourself.
Chris: What shall I say?
Christine: Okay, you be Michelle and I'll be you.
Chris: What?
Christine: A role-play...just so I can show you what to say. Okay, we're both in the lift together... you say what Michelle would say and I'll say what you should say.

Chris: Okay.
Christine: Ready?
Chris: Yes.
Christine: I'm you, you're Michelle.
Chris: I know.
Christine: (As Chris) There should be a television in this lift.
Chris: A television?!
Christine: Well the lift's so slow you could watch a whole programme before you get to your floor.

Chris: (Laughing) It is slow.
Christine: My name's Chris by the way.
Chris: Hi Chris... I'm Michelle.
Christine: Nice name.
Chris: Thank you... it's French.
Christine: Very romantic.
Chris: Do you think so?
Christine: Oh yes. Have you ever seen a French film?
Chris: No.
Christine: Would you like to?
Chris: Yes.
Christine: There's one on at the Broadway Cinemateque cinema... want to go?
Chris: Yes please.
Christine: Okay, meet me at the entrance to our block on Saturday at six thirty.
Chris: Okay.
Christine: Sixteenth floor... this is where I get off.
Chris: See you on Saturday.
Christine: Look forward to it... bye Michelle.

(Pause)

Chris: (Happy) That went really well didn't it.
Christine: You've got yourself a date.... she was a pushover.
Chris: So I'm seeing her on Saturday.

Christine: Well not quite Chris... that was only a role play... now you've got to do it properly yourself. D'you think you can?

Chris: I'll try Christine.. I'll try.

Music

The End