

Songbirds: 'Brother-Sister, Sister-Brother' Part 2

By **Dino Mahoney**

Characters:

Chris: Christine's twin brother.
Christine: Chris's twin sister.
Michelle: A girl who lives in the same block.

Synopsis:

The day has arrived when Chris is to go out on his date with Michelle, but Chris has the flu. He is distraught when he realizes he is too sick to go out. Chris does not have Michelle's phone number so Christine offers to meet Michelle and tell her Chris cannot go out as he is sick. Chris does not want this as he thinks Michelle will think he's making excuses. Christine said she'd help in anyway even flippantly offering to take his place. Chris seizes on this and convinces Christine to dress up as him and go on the date with Michelle. Will Michelle notice the difference?

Chris: That's her... over there.
Mark: With the long hair?
Chris: Yes.
Mark: Look, she's coming this way... now's your chance Chris... talk to her....
Go on.
Chris: (Hurriedly) You say something.
Mark: (Soft voice) Hello.

(Pause)

Chris: She didn't even stop... she just walked by as if we didn't exist.

Music

(SFX: Front door closing as Chris comes home)

Christine: Is that you Chris?
Chris: Yes.
Christine: Mum and Dad are coming home late so I'm cooking dinner.
Chris: Okay. (Sighs)
Christine: That was a big sigh.
Chris: (Sighs again)

Christine: What are you sighing about?
Chris: (Pause) It's nothing, just a... girl.. she lives on our estate.... I want to ask her out but I don't know what to say.
Christine: Okay, I'll show you...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... Ready?
Chris: Yes.
Christine: (As Chris) There should be a television in this lift.
Chris: A television?!
Christine: It'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

Chris: (To himself) Where is she? I've been waiting by this lift for almost an hour! (Puffs and blows) I'm giving up. (Gasps) Hang on... here she

comes... (panics) I can't do it... my hands have gone all clammy and my mouth has dried up... too late, she's almost here. Concentrate Chris, concentrate... just remember your lines.

(SFX: Sound of lift door opening. Chris and Michelle get inside)

Michelle: Sixteenth floor isn't it.
Chris: Yes! How did you know?! (Silence) Um....there should be a television in this lift.
Michelle: A television?
Chris: Well the lift's so slow you could watch a whole programme before you get to your floor.
Michelle: (Laughing) It is slow.
Chris: My name's Chris by the way.
Michelle: Hi Chris... I'm Michelle.
Chris: Nice name.
Michelle: Thank you.
Christine: Very.... romantic.
Michelle: (She laughs) Really?
Chris: Have you ever seen a French film?
Michelle: (She laughs) No.
Chris: Would you like to see one?
Michelle: I don't know.
Chris: There's one on at the Broadway Cinemateque cinema... want to go?
Michelle: What's it about?
Chris: Sixteenth floor... this is where I get off. Okay, meet me at the entrance to our block on Saturday. Bye. See you Saturday.

(SFX: The lift doors close shut)

Chris: (Yelling through lift door) At six thirty.

(SFX: Sound of lift rising)

Did it! I did it! Yippee!

(SFX: Front door closing as Chris comes in)

Chris: (Calling) Christine! Christine!
Christine: Hi Chris. Gosh, you look happy.
Chris: I did it, I did it!
Christine: You spoke to Michelle?
Chris: Yes!
Christine: And?

Chris: We're going out Saturday!
Christine: Fantastic!
Chris: I said everything you told me to.
Christine: (Laughing) In our role-play?
Chris: Yes, the role-play about being in the lift.
Christine: Well done.
Chris: I wrote it all down and memorized it.
Christine: (Laughing) And it worked?
Chris: I waited for her by the lift and we got in together.
Christine: (Laughing) So you really did speak to her in the lift?
Chris: Guess what she said?
Christine: What?
Chris: 'You're the sixteenth floor aren't you.'
Christine: Wow, she knew your floor!
Chris: I was so surprised I nearly forgot my lines.
Christine: (laughing) Your lines!
Chris: But then I remembered them and it was just the same as we did it together.
Christine: Exactly the same?
Chris: Yes.
Christine: What about the part about the French film at the Broadway Cinemateque?
Chris: I said that too.
Christine: But I was just making that up!
Chris: It doesn't matter.
Christine: But you've told her you're taking her to see a French film at the Broadway Cinemateque?
Chris: Yes.
Christine: (Laughing) But what if there isn't one?
Chris: It doesn't matter, we can go and see something else.
Christine: (Laughing) Oh Chris... well done, well done... I'm so pleased for you!.
Chris: Thanks Christine (He sneezes loudly)
Christine: Bless you.
Chris: I couldn't have done it without you. (Sneezes again).
Christine: Sounds as if you've got a cold coming on.
Chris: No I'm alright. I'm just excited that's all.
Christine: Well calm down, you've still got a few days left to go yet.
Chris: Oh Christine!... I'm going out with Michelle... I'm going out with Michelle! (sneezes)

Music

Chris: (Sneezing violently. Chris has the flu. Speaking with a pinched nose.)
I can't even play my computer games... I keep sneezing all over the screen.

Christine: Lie on the settee and have a rest.
Chris: Okay. My bones feel like jelly and I'm burning up. Christine... can you make me some more lemon tea please.
Christine: Of course. Now lie down and rest.... You'll only get better if you rest... playing computer games is not good for you.
Chris: (Coughing) Can you pass me the aspirins?
Christine: Chris... you had two aspirins less than an hour ago, it says on the box, 'to be taken every four hours.'
Chris: What's the time?
Christine: Five o'clock.
Chris: Is the tea ready yet?
Christine: Chris... you can't go out... you're too ill.
Chris: I feel fine (sneezes) I've just got a bit of a cold that's all.
Christine: It's a bad cold Chris, maybe even flu... and if you go out it will only become worse and anyway... you don't want to give your cold to Michelle do you?
Chris: I've got to go Christine... I've got to.
Christine: Phone her and tell her you're ill... she'll understand.
Chris: I haven't got her phone number.
Christine: Where are you meeting her?
Chris: Downstairs at the entrance to our block.
Christine: If you want I could go down and tell her you're ill.
Chris: (Distressed) But she'll be all ready to go out... she'll hate me for it!
Christine: No she won't.
Chris: (Sneezes)
Christine: There's no way you're going out like that Chris.
Chris: (Distressed) She'll be all ready to see a film, and then I don't turn up, she'll think I've let her down!
Christine: Don't worry, I'll explain.
Chris: (Upset) She'll think it's an excuse... What am I going to do?!
Christine: Poor Chris you were really looking forward to tonight weren't you.
Chris: She'll never want to see me again.
Christine: I wish I could help you Chris... I'd even go for you if I could!
Chris: Wait a minute, wait a minute. (Eureka moment) That's it!
Christine: What?
Chris: You go for me!
Christine: Chris, you're ill, you're getting delirious... now lie down and drink this tea.
Chris: I'm being perfectly serious....You can go in my place.
Christine: (Laughing) Chris... Michelle doesn't want to go on a date with me!
Chris: I know... but you can pretend to be me!
Christine: Drink your tea.
Chris: Don't you remember when we were little... that trick Mum played on Auntie Winnie...she dressed you up as me and when Auntie Winnie came round she thought you WERE me.

Christine: Chris, that's when we were small.
 Chris: But we're twins... we still look the same....we always will.
 Christine: Things have changed a bit since Mum played that trick on Auntie Winnie... I mean we've both grown, our bodies have changed.
 Chris: But if you wore a sports cap and a loose shirt over a tight T-shirt.
 Christine: Let's get this straight... You want me to dress up as you and go on a date with Michelle?
 Chris: Yes.
 Christine: It's crazy.
 Chris: I know it is but please Christine... do it for me.
 Christine: Why don't I just tell her you're ill for heaven's sakes?
 Chris: Because she'll think I've let her down... and she'll never go out with me again! (He has a coughing fit)
 Christine: (Sighs) I don't know Chris.
 Chris: Please, Christine, please... for me, just this once.
 Christine: (Pause) The crazy things I do for you.
 Chris: You're going to do it?!
 Christine: You'll have to lend me a baseball cap, and find me your tightest T-shirt that I can wear under one of your baggy sports tops.

Music

Christine: (Taking to herself) Six forty five and no sign of Michelle... Poor Chris, I hope she hasn't stood him up.
 Michelle: Hi, sorry I'm late.
 Christine: Michelle?
 Michelle: To tell you the truth, I wasn't quite sure if you'd be here.
 Christine: If I say I'll be here, I'll be here... I never break my word.
 Michelle: It was just that...
 Christine: What?
 Michelle: The way you asked me... you made me laugh but I wasn't really sure if you were serious.
 Christine: Of course I was.
 Michelle: Anyway... are we really going to see that French film you talked about?
 Christine: Um... that one has finished. I checked.
 Michelle: Never mind. Anyway, I don't speak French. (She laughs)
 Christine: (Laughs) Neither do I. So Michelle, where shall we go?
 Michelle: Anywhere you like Chris... anywhere you like.

Music

The End