

Songbirds: 'Brother-Sister, Sister-Brother' Part 4

By **Dino Mahoney**

Characters:

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

Synopsis:

The day after her date with Chris(tine) Michelle's friend phones her and suggest that the sensitive Chris(tine) may be gay. Christine tells her brother about the date and Chris asks his sister to speak to Michelle if she phones up as he is still feeling very ill. Michelle phones up and speaks to Chris(tine), and in the course of their conversation Michelle tries to explore whether Chris(tine) is gay or not.

Chris: (Sneezing violently.)
Christine: Chris you can't go out with Michelle... you're too ill. Phone her and tell her you can't go.
Chris: I haven't got her phone number.
Christine: Then I'll go down and tell her you're ill.
Chris: (Distressed) But she'll be all ready to go out... she'll hate me if I don't turn up!
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! You go for me!
Christine: You mean you want me to dress up as you and go on a date with a girl?

Music

Michelle: Oh Chris... that was the best film I've ever seen. (Sighs) I loved the ending when Arwen and Aragorn got married.
Christine: Me too! It was so romantic.
Michelle: I couldn't stop crying
Christine: Neither could I.
Michelle: And Liv Tyler's dress!
Christine: Beautiful.
Michelle: I'd love to have a dress like that.

Christine: Me t... (remembering she is supposed to be a boy) ... I mean... you'd look lovely in that dress Michelle.
Michelle: D'you think so Chris? How sweet.... Who was your favourite character?
Christine: (Drooling) Legolas.... I think Orlando Bloom is really.... (remembering that she is supposed to be a boy)... a very good actor.
Michelle: He's my favourite too... he's so good looking... He's a bit like you in a way Chris.
Christine: Like me?! How?!
Michelle: Strong... but very sensitive.

Music

Michelle: That mango pudding was delicious.
Christine: I make mango pudding.
Michelle: Do you Chris?... how do you make It?
Christine: Well first I add gelatin and sugar to some hot water... then I blend the mango puree, evaporated milk and ice cubes. (Fade) When I've done that I pour the gelatin mixture into the mango mixture and stir until the ice cubes melt. Then I.....

Music

(SFX: Telephone ringing)

Serena: Hi Michelle.
Michelle: Hi Serena.
Serena: How did your date go?
Michelle: Fantastic. His name's Chris and I can't stop thinking about him.
Serena: Hey Michelle, good. news. So how did you spend the evening?
Michelle: We went to see The Lord of the Rings and Chris cried... we both did... and after we went to the food hall to have a mango pudding and he told me how he makes mango puddings.
Serena: So Chris cries in movies and gives you the recipe for mango pudding?
Michelle: Yes, isn't it wonderful, a sensitive boy... I didn't think they existed.
Serena: Can I ask you something personal Michelle?
Michelle: Go ahead.
Serena: Did Chris kiss you?
Michelle: It was only our first date.
Serena: So he didn't.
Michelle: No.
Serena: Did you hold hands?
Michelle: No.
Serena: (Pause) Michelle you won't be offended if I say something will you?
Michelle: No Serena, please... go ahead.

Serena: (Pause) A boy who cries in films, a boy who knows the recipe for mango pudding, a boy who doesn't kiss you and doesn't hold hands with you on a date? Well Michelle, there's only one possible explanation.... He's gay.

Music

(SFX: Knocking on Chris' door with her knuckles)

Christine: Chris... Chris are you awake?
Chris: (The sound of Chris coughing through the door)
Christine: Chris, I've made you some tea... Can I come in?
Chris: (The sound of Chris coughing through the door. In a voice thick with flu)
Come in.

(SFX: Opening door)

Christine: You poor thing. How are you feeling?
Chris: Terrible.
Christine: Here's some water... swallow these aspirins (SFX: Drinking water, swallowing aspirins) Now sip this hot lemon tea.
Chris: (He sounds full of cold) Thanks..... How did you get on with Michelle?
Christine: Fine. I got in quite late... I didn't want to wake you up.
Chris: Did she think you were me?
Christine: Yes, I think she did.
Chris: You gave her a nice time?
Christine: We went to see Lord of the Rings.
Chris: I want to see that. How was it?
Christine: Fantastic.
Chris: Did Michelle like it?
Christine: Very much, and after we went to the food court and had mango pudding.
Chris: Then you came home.
Christine: Not quite, she wanted to go and sit in a swing park... so we went and sat on the swings and looked for stars.
Chris: Did you find any?
Christine: Yes. One.
Chris: Then you came home?
Christine: Up in the same lift, I was very polite, I went up to the twenty second floor with her then back down here.
Chris: What time was that?
Christine: About one.
Chris: And she was happy?
Christine: Oh yes. She took your phone number... and, here... this is her number.
Chris: Thanks.
Christine: She's going to ring you to-day to tell you how her mango pudding turned out.

Chris: Her mango pudding?
Christine: Yes... I gave her my recipe but of course she thinks YOU gave her YOUR recipe. She's going to tell you how it turned out.
Chris: But I don't know anything about mango puddings!
Christine: You don't have to.
Chris: But what if she asks me about making it? I won't have a clue!
Christine: She won't, I've already told her.
Chris: So everything went okay? She really thought you were me?
Christine: I wore your baseball cap all the time and I guess this was the first time she'd met you so she didn't think anything was strange. Once or twice I forgot and said things like, 'Chris likes this,' but she thought it was cute the way I referred to myself by name.
Chris: She wasn't suspicious?
Christine: No. And I did cry in the film... I couldn't help it, I always cry in films you know what I'm like.
Chris: Did she see you crying?
Christine: I pulled your cap over my face as far as I could, but she did see. Anyway, not to worry... she was very happy and she really wants to see you again.
Chris: Is that what she said.
Christine: Yes, she said you are different from the other boys, very sensitive and she says she thinks she's on the same wavelength as you.
Chris: So we got off to a good start?
Christina: Yes you did.
Chris: Did we hold hands?
Christina: No, I didn't want to risk it in case she noticed how soft my hands were.
Chris: Okay, well (sneezes) Thanks Sis... you know I'd do the same for you.
Christina: What, dress up as a girl and go on a date with my boyfriend?
Chris: Well, maybe not that... but anything else.
Christina: I just want you to get better Chris.... Mum told me to look after you and look... you've got the flu. Now drink your tea before it gets cold.
Chris: Could you do one more thing for me Sis?
Christina: What's that?
Chris: When Michelle rings, can you carry on pretending to be me... just until my cold gets better.
Christina: Can't you take over from here Chris?
Chris: It will be weird if she rings up and suddenly I've got the flu. Please sis.
Christina: Oh well, at least I won't have to dress up when I speak to her on the phone.

(SFX: Phone ringing)

Christine: That'll be Michelle.
Chris: Answer it and let me listen.
Christine: Okay, pick up the phone in here and I'll get the one in the living room. And try not to cough or sneeze.

(SFX: Phone ringing. Stops.)
Hello.

Michelle: The mango pudding was absolutely delicious!
Christine: Good. What was the consistency like?
Michelle: Smooth and creamy.
Christine: Sounds like you did it absolutely right. Did your Mum like it?
Michelle: She loved it... she ate two bowls of it.
Christine: A success then.
Michelle: Yes.
Christine: Like last night.
Michelle: I had a wonderful night, thank you Chris.
Christine: We'll have to do it again.
Michelle: I hope so. (Pause) Chris... you do like me don't you.
Christine: Of course I do.
Michelle: Are you sure?
Christine: Yes. I think you're a really nice girl.
Michelle: Chris.
Christine: Yes.
Michelle: Can I ask you something.
Christine: Of course.
Michelle: Have you ever had a girlfriend before?
Christina: Um... no, not really, not a proper girlfriend.
Michelle: Haven't you?
Christina: I've had girls who are friends, but not a girl friend, if you see what I mean.
Michelle: You do... like girls don't you?
(SFX: Chris can't stop himself coughing and he can be heard on the phone)
What's that? Was that you coughing?
Christina: (SFX: She coughs a bit) Yes, I have got a bit of a cough... maybe it was sitting outside on those swings last night.

Michelle: You poor thing... is your Mother looking after you?
Christina: No, my Mum and Dad are away in China with my Dad.
Michelle: So you're all by yourself?
Christina: No, my sister's looking after me.
Michelle: You didn't tell me you had a sister Chris.
Christine: Didn't I?
Michelle: What's she like?
Christina: She's nice... I think so anyway.
Michelle: Is she like you?
Christina: In some ways.
Michelle: What's her name?
Christina: Christina.
Michelle: Your older sister.
Christina: No... same age as me.
Michelle: The same age?

Christina: We're twins.

Michelle: Oh, how nice, a twin sister. Did you play together when you were little?

Christina: Yes.

Michelle: With her dolls and things?

Christina: Well I suppose I played with her dolls sometimes and she played with my guns and toy soldiers.

Michelle: That's nice. (Pause) You know I can't stop thinking about the film.

Christina: Me too... you know they're playing all three Lord of the Ring films together one after the other at one of the cinemas.

Michelle: That would take all day!

Christina: It does..

Michelle: Chris, do you want me to bring you down some of my mango pudding?... I saved you a little bit to taste so you can tell me if I've done it right.
(SFX: Chris coughing on the phone again)

Michelle: That cough sounds really nasty.

Christina: (Coughing to cover up) Yes, I hope I'm not getting a cold... colds are very infectious when you first get them.

Michelle: Are they?

Christina: Oh yes... even if you're in the same room as someone who's just caught a cold you can catch it.

Michelle: Maybe I'll put your mango pudding in the fridge and you can try it later.

Christina: Good idea.

Michelle: So, when can I see you again?

Christina: Um. Next Saturday?

Michelle: That sounds too far away.

Christina: Friday?

Michelle: I don't know if I can wait that long... but, okay... Friday.

Christina: Let's meet at the same place, same time.

Michelle: Can we see another film?

Christina: Sure.

Michelle: You choose okay... I like the films you choose.

Christina: Okay.

Michelle: Well, I'd better be going. (Pause. Emotional) You know Chris. I don't care what you are... I sill think you're very special and I still want to go out with you... goodbye.
(SFX: Phone clicks off)

Christina: She's gone. (Speaking to Chris on the extension. laughing) Well... what did you make of that?

Chris: (Coughing)

Christina: I think she thinks I'm gay. (laughing)

Chris: (Coughing violently) Don't cough into the phone Chris... it's deafening. (laughing) When she asked me if I used to play with my sister's dolls I nearly burst out laughing? And no matter what I am she still likes me. (laughing)

Chris: Don't make fun of her Christine.

Christine: (Trying to stop laughing) Sorry Chris... I tell you what, I nearly had a fit when she said she was coming down.
Chris: I wish I were feeling better.
Christine: You soon will be Chris... another two or three days and you'll be over this cold... and then you'll be able to go on your first date with the lovely Michelle.

Music

The End