

Songbirds: 'Brother-Sister, Sister-Brother' Part 5

By **Dino Mahoney**

Characters:

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

Synopsis:

Chris finally takes Michelle on a date but he is very nervous and acts very awkwardly – he acts like the sort of typical rough boy that Michelle does not like. This is his first date with a girl and deep down he is terrified.

They go to see an action movie in Mong Kok, the type of film Michelle does not enjoy. Afterwards Chris leads them in a hunt for a video game. They go home and Chris gets off at the sixteenth floor having either held Michelle's hand or having given her a kiss on the cheek. In contrast to the very successful date Michelle had with Chris(tine) the date with Chris is a failure.

(SFX: Opening door)

Chris: (Coughing)
Christine: You poor thing. How are you feeling?
Chris: Terrible.
Christine: Here... sip this hot lemon tea.
Chris: (He sounds full of cold) Thanks..... How did you get on with Michelle?
Christine: Fine.
Chris: Did she think you were me?
Christine: Yes, I think she did.... She's going to ring you to-day to tell you how her mango pudding turned out.
Chris: Her mango pudding?!
Christine: 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!

(SFX: Phone ringing)

Christine: That'll be Michelle.
 Chris: You answer it Christine.... It will be strange if she hears me talking with this cold.
 Christine: Okay, at least on the phone I won't have to dress up as you.
 (SFX: Phone ringing stops.)
 Hello.
 Michelle: Oh Chris! The mango pudding was absolutely delicious!
 Christine: Glad to hear it.
 Michelle: And thanks Chris, I had a wonderful night last night.
 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: Chris can I ask you something.... Have you ever had a girlfriend before?
 Christina: Um... I've had girls who are friends, but not a real girl friend.
 Michelle: You do... like girls don't you?
 Christina: Yes of course I do.
 Michelle: (Pause) When can I see you again?
 Christina: Next Friday, same place, same time?
 Michelle: Okay. Well, I'd better go now. (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: (laughing) How funny, I think she thinks I'm gay. (laughing) Probably because last night I didn't kiss her or hold her hand.
 Chris: Don't laugh at her Christine.
 Christine: Sorry Chris, but it is funny. Anyway, soon be Friday and you'll be able to go on your first date with the lovely Michelle AND hold her hand.

Music

(It's Friday. Chris no longer has his cold and his voice is back to normal)

Mark: So your sister dressed up as you and went on a date with Michelle?
 Chris: Don't tell anyone will you.
 Mark: Michelle must have known.
 Chris: No she didn't, she even spoke to my sister on the phone next day and she still thought it was me.
 Mark: Couldn't you have just told Michelle you were ill?
 Chris: My cold only really got bad late on Saturday and I thought Michelle would be really fed up if I cancelled at the last minute, so I asked my sister to dress up as me and go on the date.
 Mark: Did she wear your clothes?
 Chris: My T-shirt, sweat shirt and baseball cap... she wore her own jeans and sports shoes.

Mark: (Laughing) And Michelle thought it was you.
Chris: We've done it before, when we were little, my Mum dressed my sister up as me and one of my Aunts thought it really was me.
Mark: Your sister does look like you.
Chris: We're twins.
Mark: So you've got a date with Michelle tonight?
Chris: Yes.
Mark: How do you feel?
Chris: Fine... I think. Hey Mark, have you ever taken a girl out before, I mean on a proper date?
Mark: (Pause) Not really.
Chris: Neither have I.
Mark: How do you feel?
Chris: Fine. Well nervous as well. You know what?!
Mark: What?
Chris: Because my sister didn't hold her hand or kiss her on the date she thinks I might be gay!
Mark: I don't understand.
Chris: My sister dressed up and acted as me, okay.
Mark: Yes.
Chris: And on the date with Michelle she didn't hold hands like you're supposed to do on dates... or... you know...
Mark: What?
Chris: Kiss.
Mark: Oh.
Chris: So Michelle thought my sister... that is, I wasn't interested in girls.
Mark: I'm confused.
Chris: Well tonight it's really me going on the date with Michelle.
Mark: Are you going to hold her hand?
Chris: On a date you're supposed to aren't you?
Mark: What if your hands are all sweaty?
Chris: Rub them down your trousers.
Mark: And what about the other thing?
Chris: What other thing?
Mark: You know, what you said before.
Chris: You mean... kissing?
Mark: Are you going to do any of that?
Chris: I think, when you take them home you're supposed to kiss them on the cheek.
Mark: What if one of the neighbours comes out to empty the rubbish or something?
Chris: Wait till they go I suppose.
Mark: Is that what you're going to do?
Chris: I think so.
Mark: I wouldn't like to do it.

Chris: It's what girls want so you have to do it.
Mark: Anyway Chris, good luck... rather you than me.

Music

Christine: Hey Chris... it's gone six thirty you're late for your date with Michelle.
(Silence) Chris! You're not still playing computer games are you?!

Chris: (Appearing) How do I look?
Christine: Fine... but what's that smell?
Chris: What smell?
Christine: Come here.
Chris: What?
Christine: I want to smell you.
Chris: Go away.
Christine: No wait, come here. (SFX: Sniffing) Eeeee!... what's that stink?
Chris: After shave lotion.
Christine: (laughing) But Chris, you don't shave!
Chris: It's Dad's.
Christine: You've put too much on.
Chris: It's alright.
Christine: I'd wash some of it off if I were you.
Chris: I haven't got time.
Christine: Poor Michelle will faint if you get too near her.
Chris: Where are my sports shoes?!
Christine: Where did you put them?
Chris: (Panics) Christine, help me!
Christine: Are they in your room?
Chris: No! I left them by the door and now they're not there!
Christine: I haven't moved them. Isn't that them in the corner over there.
Chris: How did they get there?!
Christine: Calm down Chris... you're getting all worked up.
Chris: What's the time?!
Christine: Twenty to seven. Girls don't like being kept waiting by the way.
Chris: Oh no! My shoelace has broken!
Christine: Chris, you'd better go.
Chris: But my shoelace.
Christine: Give it to me... here... I'll just tie that short bit there like that... that's good enough now go before she gets really fed up.

Music

(Throughout the date Chris is very nervous and behaves badly without being able to stop himself)

Chris: Hello Michelle.
Michelle: Hi Chris... Oh!
Chris: What?
Michelle: You're not wearing your sports cap.
Chris: No.
Michelle: It's just that you said you only took it off while you're having a shower.
Chris: Did I?
Michelle: Yes.
Chris: Oh. Well. I'm not wearing it.
Michelle: I don't mind... I can see you... but this time you won't be able to pull it down when you cry.
Chris: Cry?
Michelle: Like you did in the cinema last Saturday.
Chris: (Laughing clumsily) Did I?
Michelle: So... what film are you taking me to tonight?
Chris: There's a great film on in Mong Kok.
Michelle: Really? What's it called?
Chris: Action Hero Two.
Michelle: (Disappointed) Oh... is that really supposed to be good?
Chris: You bet.
Michelle: But I haven't seen Action Hero One.
Chris: Doesn't matter, I can tell you what happened.
Michelle: So it's an action movie?
Chris: Yeah, it's great... comic superheroes in cosmic action battles to save the planet.
Michelle: (Disappointed) Chris, is that the only choice?
Chris: Yes. Come on Michelle, let's go before all the tickets sell out.

(SFX: In the MTR. Various announcements can be heard in the background)

Chris: Action Hero One is awesome... there's this monster, see... bigger than the Bank of China, right... and it wants to take over the whole world but the X Men link up with Wolverine, Spiderman, and this gang of Samurai from Outer Space.
Michelle: It's so crowded in here. I can hardly breath.
Chris: Yeah, anyway, this monster has this special power, it can fire remote control atom bombs from its eyes and when the super heroes come too close it threatens to blow up the whole cosmos...
Michelle: What's that smell?
Chris: Smell. What smell?
Michelle: Really strong... like chemicals... ughhh... I can hardly breath.
Chris: Don't know.
Michelle: (SFX: Sniffing Chris) Chris... it's coming from you.
Chris: Oh that smell!

Michelle: What is it?
Chris: Um, my ... after shave.
Michelle: Oh. You weren't wearing it last time.
Chris: No, it's new.
Michelle: I hope you didn't buy it for me.
Chris: No... no I didn't... it's my Dad's actually.
Michelle: Oh I see, I'm sorry, I'm sure it smells very nice on him.
Chris: Anyway, as I was saying, when the super heroes come too close the monster threatens to blow up the whole cosmos (SFX: Fade out) including Planet Zeetek where the Samurai from Outer Space come from and then....

(SFX: In the cinema. Intergalactic gun battles, bombs going off noisy sounds of a video computer game. Fade.)

(SFX: Fade up on the many street noises of a crowded night time Mong Kok)

Chris: Wow! That was fantastic! I loved the bit when Devilman crushes Captain America in that giant crushing machine and when Ghost rider lops off Wolverine's head with that giant scythe and those guns the Samurai from outer space used to blow Dr Death into thousands of tiny little pieces.
Michelle: Chris, can we go somewhere quiet... I've got a headache.
Chris: There's a great video games centre here I want to see if I can buy the new Action Hero Two game.
Michelle: Can you get it another time?
Chris: Won't be long. Wa! Lot of people. (SFX: Fade) I think it's down here.

(SFX: Fade up on street sounds)

Chris: Great I got it... only twenty dollars... probably pirated. Wa, I can't wait to get home and see what it's like.
Michelle: Can we go and have something to drink, I'm really thirsty.
Chris: You want a drink? Okay. Look, there's a seven eleven over there.
Michelle: Can't we sit down somewhere?
Chris: Sit down? Where?
Michelle: I don't know. Look, let's get out of Mong Kok, the crowds are making me dizzy.
Chris: You want to go home?
Michelle: (Sighs) Yes, maybe I do. (Fade)

(SFX: In the block of flats waiting for the lift)

Michelle: This lift always takes so long.
Chris: I can't wait to see what this computer game's like.

Michelle: (Fondly) Remember what you first said to me... about having a TV in the lift?

Chris: Yes. (Reciting lines) There should be a television in this lift. Then you say, 'A television?' And I say, Well the lift's so slow you could watch a whole programme before you get to your floor and then you laugh and I say... 'My name's Chris by the way' and you say, 'Hi, my name's Michelle and then I ask you to see a French film... and you say 'yes.'

Michelle: (Pause. Puzzled) You sound as if you've learned those lines by heart.

Chris: Here's the lift.

(SFX: Door's opening and closing)

Michelle: I can still smell your Dad's aftershave.

Chris: Um... do you want me to come up to the twenty second floor with you?

Michelle: Only if you want to.

Chris: I might as well get out at my floor seeing as it's stopping there first.

Michelle: Don't you want to come up and try some of my mango pudding.

Chris: What? Go in your flat?!

Michelle: I checked with my mum and she said it was fine.

Chris: Your Mum? No. No I'd better not.

Michelle: Oh... okay then.

(SFX: Lift doors opening)

Chris: Here's my floor.

Michelle: Yes.

Chris: Good night Michelle.

Michelle: Good night Chris.

Chris: (Pause) Sorry.

(SFX: Lift doors closing)

Chris: (To himself) I think I was supposed to kiss her or something... Shall I run up the stairs and try and reach her before she goes into her flat? Shall I? No, it's too late now... too late. (He groans in the knowledge that the evening has been a disaster) Oh Michelle... Michelle.

Music

The End