

## Songbirds: 'Brother-Sister, Sister-Brother' Part 6

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 unsuccessful date with the real Chris Michelle talks to Serena on the phone and confesses that she has fallen out of love. Chris tells Christina what a terrible night it was and confesses that he was very nervous. Chris then persuades Christine to phone up Michelle, pretending to be him, and arrange another date with Michelle. Christine does this and Chris has one last chance.*

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Christine: Hey Chris... it's gone six thirty you're late for your date with Michelle!  
Chris: Where are my sports shoes?!  
Christine: Over there in the corner.  
Christine: Hurry up Chris, Michelle will be waiting for you..

### Music

Chris: Hello Michelle.  
Michelle: Hi Chris... Oh!  
Michelle: So... what film are you taking me to tonight?  
Chris: Action Hero Two.  
Michelle: (Disappointed) Is that the only choice?

(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 (SFX: Fade) and when the super heroes come too close it threatens to blow up the whole cosmos...

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

Michelle: This lift always takes so long.

(SFX: Door's opening and closing. Lift rising.)

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

Michelle: Only if you want to.

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

(SFX: Lift doors opening)

Chris: Good night Michelle.

Michelle: Good night.

Chris: (Pause) Sorry.

(SFX: Lift doors closing)

Chris: (To himself) I think I was supposed to kiss her or something...  
(He groans in the knowledge that the evening has been a disaster)

## Music

(SFX: Phone ringing)

Serena: Hello.

Michelle: Hi Serena, it's me, Michelle..

Serena: How was the date?

Michelle: (Depressed) Terrible.

Serena: Did he hold your hand?

Michelle: No... thank goodness.

Serena: Nothing.

Michelle: No.

Serena: Well you know what I think... that Chris of yours isn't really interested in girls... Did he give you any more recipes?

Michelle: No. I wish he had. And if he isn't interested in girls why did he ask me out on a date?

Serena: I don't know...to impress his friends... maybe he thinks he has to.

Michelle: I don't think he's gay Serena... I just think he's... dumb.

Serena: Dumb? But you had such a great time last week... after the date you were on cloud nine!

Michelle: I know... the first time we went out together it was great... great film... really good talk afterwards... really nice late night dessert... fun in the park looking for stars.... I couldn't stop thinking about him, but now I just want to forget about him.

Serena: What a shame.

Michelle: All week I've been over the moon... I thought I'd found a sweet, kind, sensitive boy.

Serena: So what went wrong this time?

Michelle: He took me to see Action Hero Two.

Serena: Yuk!

Michelle: Exactly. I asked if there were any other films we could see but he just ignored that and off we rushed to Mong Kok.

Serena: Boring.

Michelle: And all he could talk about on the way was Action Hero One... as if I cared!

Serena: I wouldn't have gone.

Michelle: But we had such a good time last week... I kept thinking any moment things would change and the magic would come back.

Serena: But it didn't.

Michelle: The film was awful... like a two hour video game all fighting and guns and noise... I got a headache.

Serena: Poor you.

Michelle: Then when it finished we had to go around Mong Kok hunting for a silly video game based on the silly film.

Serena: Nightmare.

Michelle: I told him I had a headache but he just ignored me... and Mong Kok was really crowded... you couldn't really walk you just shuffled along with the crowd.

Serena: And it was so hot last night.

Michelle: Then we got home.. you know we live in the same block... and I invite him up for some of the mango pudding I'd made from his very own recipe and you know what he does?

Serena: What?

Michelle: He got off on his floor and I went up to my floor all on my own.

Serena: But last week you said he went up with you.

Michelle: I fell onto my bed and burst out crying.

Serena: Poor Michelle.

Michelle: I felt I'd lost someone... that someone I loved had been taken from me.  
Serena: It's really weird... one week he's crying in the cinema and giving you recipes for mango pudding and the next week he's taking you to action movies and dragging you around Mong Kok looking for video games!  
Michelle: To tell you the truth Serena... it was like going on a date with two completely different people.  
Serena: Hang on, hang on!  
Michelle: What?  
Serena: I think I've got it!  
Michelle: Got what?  
Serena: I think I know why Chris behaved so differently the second time you went out.  
Michelle: Why?  
Serena: Well the first time he showed you his sensitive side, right?  
Michelle: Yes.  
Serena: And this time he was acting like a typical boy, rough and INsensitive.  
Michelle: So?  
Serena: Well can't you see Michelle... he wanted to prove that he wasn't a sissy... on the first date he showed you his feminine side and yesterday he showed you his masculine side.  
Michelle: I know which one I prefer.  
Serena: But the thing is Michelle... he's never held your hand.  
Michelle: Oh Serena, what shall I do?!  
Serena: If I were you I'd forget about him Michelle.  
Michelle: I can easily forget about that boring boy I went out with yesterday... but I don't think I can forget that sweet and sensitive boy I went out with last Saturday.  
Serena: Did you arrange another date?  
Michelle: No.  
Serena: Are you going to phone him or wait for him to phone you?  
Michelle: I want the first Chris back... I love the first Chris but I hate the second.  
Serena: But Michelle, how are you going to find the first Chris again?  
Michelle: I don't know Serena, I just don't know.

#### Music

Christine: (Happy) Mum and Dad are coming home tomorrow night!  
Chris: (Depressed) Are they?  
Christine: I thought you'd be happy.  
Chris: (Glum) I am.  
Christine: So why the serious face? I thought you'd be a very happy guy to-day, you've been out with your darling Michelle and Mum and Dad are coming home.  
Chris: (Groans)

Christine: What is it Chris? Aren't you feeling well again?  
Chris: I feel terrible.  
Christine: Oh dear, I think I'd better take you to the doctors.  
Chris: I don't need to go to the doctors, it's not my body that's sick.  
Christine: It's about last night isn't it.  
Chris: (Groaning) Yes.  
Christine: What happened?  
Chris: (Groaning) It all went wrong.  
Christine: Come on Chris, don't exaggerate, I'm sure Michelle had a lovely time.  
Chris: I took her to a movie she hated, I dragged her round Mong Kok to find some stupid video game that I didn't really want and then I got out of the lift on our floor and left her to go up by herself! (Groans)  
Christine: Oh... I see.  
Chris: I knew she was bored but I just couldn't do anything about it... I just couldn't stop doing all the wrong things.  
Christine: So you didn't really get to chat and find out about each other?  
Chris: I kept talking about the Action Hero films... and I knew she hated it! But I couldn't think what else to say.  
Christine: Were you nervous?  
Chris: Terrified.  
Christine: And did you at least hold hands?  
Chris: I wanted to, but my hands were all sweaty and shaking.  
Christine: My poor little brother.  
Chris: I've never been out with a girl before! And now Michelle will never want to see me again... ever!  
Christine: Look Chris, don't get upset... think of this as a learning experience... it won't be so bad next time.  
Chris: There won't be a next time! I never want to go out with a girl again!  
Christine: You say that now, but you'll change your mind when you're a bit older... perhaps you're still a bit too young to go out on dates.  
Chris: Boys in Form three go out on dates... and I'm in Form Five!  
Christine: Have you made any other arrangements with her?  
Chris: No.  
Christine: Well you could try phoning her.  
Chris: She'd slam the phone down on me.  
Christine: You could apologize for last night, tell her you were having an off day... ask her if you can try again.  
Chris: (Pause) Will you do it for me Christine?  
Christine: What, phone Michelle?  
Chris: Yes, and ask her if she'll go out with me again tonight.  
Christine: Chris, I pretended to be you to help you out... you were ill and Mum and Dad were away... but you're not ill anymore and Mum and Dad are coming home tomorrow... there's no need for me to pretend to be you anymore is there?

Chris: But you'd do it so well Christine. Look... look at my hand... it's trembling like a leaf... how do you think I'm going to hold the receiver and talk to Michelle with my hand trembling like that. Please Christine... I won't ask you to do anything else, I promise.

Christine: (Sighs) Alright... but after this, I'm doing nothing.

Chris: Just get me a date with Michelle for tonight.

Christine: (Phone) Where's the phone?

Chris: I'll listen on the extension.

(SFX: Pushing buttons of phone. Phone rings)

Michelle: Hello?

Christine: Michelle, it's me Chris.

Michelle: (Tepid) Oh hello.

Christine: Michelle... I phoned to say sorry.

Michelle: (Tepid) No need.

Christine: I loved our evening together last Saturday.

Michelle: Me too.

Christine: But last night... well I didn't tell you, but I'd had a terrible day at school. Nothing went right, the teacher asked me a question I couldn't answer, I lost the notes I'd made for my homework... do you ever have days like that?

Michelle: Sometimes...yes.

Christine: I felt frustrated, all bottle up inside and I thought that seeing an action film would blast me out of it.... But I was wrong... it didn't...it only made me feel worse.

Michelle: Why didn't you tell me this last night Chris? I would have understood... we didn't need to see a film, we could have done something else.

Christine: I didn't want to let you down Michelle.

Michelle: Chris, promise me if this ever happens again you'll tell me.

Christine: I promise. You know I woke up thinking about you.

Michelle: Did you?

Christine: You know I really like being with you... it feels natural... easy... right, know what I mean?

Michelle: I feel the same only, last night you were like a stranger... at one point I even thought... 'Is this the same Chris I went out with on Saturday?!

Christine: Well I was the same person only I was feeling stressed out... but to-day I feel myself again and I'd really like to see you. Michelle... we'll have a wonderful evening I promise... let's just do something simple like go for a walk by the harbour.

Michelle: (Pause) You sound like yourself again... I feel happy.

Christine: Just forget last night never happened and let's start again.

Michelle: Okay Chris... let's give it another try.

Christine: You sound so lovely when you say that.

Michelle: I'm so glad you rang... I feel I'd lost you and now I feel I've got you back.

Christine: Same place tonight at... seven?

Michelle: I'll be there.

Christine: Goodbye Chris.

Michelle: Goodbye sweet lovely Michelle.

(SFX: End of phone call)

Chris: (Pause) Wa! You're really good!

Christine: Now you've got to be really good Chris... learn from me... be soft... listen to what Michelle has to say... think of what will please her... and don't worry about holding hands or kissing... if its going to happen it will happen in its own time... just relax and be the charming boy I know you can be.

Chris: What would I do without my sister?....'Goodbye sweet, lovely Michelle.' Wa! That sounded so good!

Christine: No memorizing lines Chris... tonight the lines must be all natural and all yours.

Music

The End