

Songbirds: 'Brother-Sister, Sister-Brother' Part 7 (Final episode)

By Dino Mahoney

Characters:

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

Synopsis:

After his disastrous date with Michelle Chris gets his sister to phone Michelle, pretending to be him, and makes another date. This is Chris' last chance. But Chris has learned a lot from his sister and he is much gentler and more considerate on this date. Michelle and Chris really get on well, they go to the harbour side at TST and get very close. Chris feels he has to tell Michelle the truth. He phones Christine to get her permission. He then prepares to tell Michelle. How will she react?

(SFX: Phone ringing)

Serena: Hello.
Michelle: Hi Serena, it's me, Michelle..
Serena: How was the date with Chris?
Michelle: (Depressed) Terrible, the first date was great... but now I just want to forget I ever met him.

Music

Christine: Hey Chris, how was your date with Michelle last night?
Chris: (Groaning) Don't ask..
Christine: Why? What happened?
Chris: (Groaning) It all went wrong.
Christine: Phone her.
Chris: Christine?...Will you phone her for me?... please.

(SFX: Pushing buttons of phone. Phone rings)

Michelle: Hello?
Christine: Michelle, it's me Chris.
Michelle: (Tepid) Oh hello.

Christine: Michelle... you know I really like being with you... it feels so natural... so right.... I'm sorry about last night... I'd had a bad day at school... but I really want to make it up to you.

Michelle: You know Chris 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: Can we forget last night ever happened and start again?

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

Music

Chris: (Pause) Wa! Christine... You're so good! Thank you! You're the best sister a boy ever had!

Christine: Now when you see Michelle tonight be soft... listen to what she 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... don't force it...just relax and be yourself.

Chris: I'll try.

Music

Michelle: Chris hi... sorry I'm a bit late.

Chris: It's okay, I don't mind.

Michelle: So.... no Action Heroes to-night.

Chris: (Pause) Michelle...sorry about last night.

Michelle: (Pause) I'm glad you phoned this morning Chris... I was feeling really down.

Chris: Michelle. (Pause. Hesitant) You look very pretty.

Michelle: Do I?

Chris: (Hesitant, trying to express his feelings) You know... when you first came to live on the estate... when I first saw you... I... I don't know ... it was like everything else... the buildings, the other people, everything disappeared except you.

Michelle: I noticed you looking at me.

Chris: Did you?

Michelle: And I thought you might speak to me.

Chris: Really?

Michelle: But you seemed so shy. (Pause) One day I saw you with a friend of yours.

Chris: Must have been Mark.

Michelle: And as I walked by he said hello.

Chris: That's right.

Michelle: I wanted you to say hello, but your friend did. (Pause) I looked at you... but you just looked away... so I walked on.

Chris: I wanted to say something but... I didn't.

Michelle: Then suddenly in the lift it was all change... you suddenly started talking to me... cracking jokes and introducing yourself and making a date. Such a surprise!

Chris: I know.

Michelle: I can tell you know I thought you were funny... but I was a bit worried that you were...

Chris: What?

Michelle: (Laughing) Well, a bit odd too. I nearly didn't show up that first Saturday,

Chris: Really?

Michelle: But then, that first night out together you were so lovely... so sensitive... such fun to talk to.

Chris: Yes.

Michelle: But after last night I began to worry again... how could the same person be so different?!

Chris: (Pause) I'm going to do my best, I really am Michelle.

Michelle: (Pause) So, shall we skip the movies tonight?

Chris: Shall we catch the minibus to Star Ferry?... then we could get off and go for a walk along the waterfront... what do you think?.

Michelle: (Sighs) Sounds wonderful.

Music

(SFX: Ambient sounds along the waterfront)

Michelle: I love the view across the harbour at night.... all the lights on Hong Kong island sparkling like diamonds.

Chris: I haven't walked along here for a long time... I think my Mum and Dad brought my sister and me here when we were little.

Michelle: Tell me about your sister.

Chris: Her name's Christine.

Michelle: (Laughing) Chris and Christine... your names are very similar.

Chris: We're twins.

Michelle: Twins?! Really? Do you look like each other?

Chris: Yes we do... Once, when we were little, my Mum dressed my sister up as me and my Aunt really thought she was me.

Michelle: (Laughing) How funny.

Chris: That's why my parents called us Chris and Christine, because we were born so close together they thought our names should be almost the same.

Michelle: Chris and Christine, that's sweet. Can I meet Christine one day?

Chris: Oh yes, of course... I think you'd like her.

Michelle: Do you?

Chris: Oh yes, you'd get on really well... for sure... one hundred percent sure.

Michelle: That's good, it would be nice to find a new friend.

Chris: (Hesitant) Michelle... (Nervous) Can I hold you hand?

Michelle: You don't have to ask Chris.

Chris: Sorry... my hand is a bit shaky.
Michelle: Okay, let me see. Hold out your hand flat... (Laughing) People will think I'm one of those fortune tellers who walk up and down the waterfront here.
Chris: Can you read fortunes in people's hands?
Michelle: I can try. Um... let's see, I think this one's your life line...mmm... quite long... you're lucky...I think you're going to have a long life.
Chris: (laughing) That's a relief!. Anything else?
Michelle: Um... where's the love line?... I think it's this one.
Chris: What does it say?
Michelle: Mmmm.
Chris: Well?
Michelle: Okay.... There's a pretty girl who lives in the sky above your head.
Chris: You mean like a goddess?
Michelle: (Laughing) Something like that. Anyway, if you light some sandalwood incense the smoke will rise and the girl will smell it and she will come down from the sky and meet the boy and they will live happily ever after.
Chris: Wa! Quick! I'd better buy some incense!
Michelle: (laughing) I don't think you need to.
Chris: Why not?! I want to meet that pretty girl who lives in the sky above me.
Michelle: You already have... she's sitting right in front of you.
Chris: Ah! I see.... so you're the girl from the sky.
Michelle: Well the twenty second floor is quite close to the sky don't you think? ... and it is above the sixteenth floor where the boy lives.
Chris: (Laughing) So that's saved me some money.
Michelle: (Laughing) Why?
Chris: (Laughing) Well now I don't have to buy any incense to bring her down!
(They laugh and gradually stop)
Chris: Now look at my hand again.
Michelle: You know fortune tellers usually charge about two hundred dollars!
Chris: I'll pay for dinner okay?
Michelle: An expensive dinner?
Chris: Well... not too cheap.
(They laugh)
Michelle: I agree. So... let's see your hand.... what else would you like to know?
Chris: Back to the love line.
Michelle: This one... okay... what else would you like to know?
Chris: The boy who meets the goddess from the sky.
Michelle: Yes? What about him?
Chris: Will he.... Will the goddess let him kiss her?
Michelle: Mmmm, that's a difficult question.
Chris: Is it?
Michelle: Yes, you see... the line goes to the left here which means she won't let him kiss her, or it may even mean he doesn't want to kiss her.
Chris: (Disappointed) Oh.

Michelle: But wait a minute... the line goes to the right here which means he does want to kiss her... and she wants to kiss him too.

Chris: So what's the answer? Will the goddess let the boy kiss her?

Michelle: The answer is... the boy will have to find out for himself.

Chris: But I thought my future was all there in the palm of my hand?

Michelle: Some people think so... but other people think their future is in their hearts, not in their hands.

Chris: So the boy has to find out for himself?

Michelle: Yes he does.

Chris: So... maybe he should try?

Michelle: Maybe he should... but only if he wants to.

Chris: He wants to... but he's afraid.

Michelle: If his fear is stronger than his feelings... then he may never kiss the girl... and one day the girl will go back up into the sky and never come down again.

Chris: So the boy should be brave and do something like..... (Pause as he kisses her)... this.

Michelle: (Sighs) Yes... the boy has done the right thing... the girl...

Chris: (Interrupts) The goddess.

Michelle: (Dreamy) Has become mortal and she can never go back to the sky. Mmm, put your arm around me Chris. (Pause) That feels nice.... It's so beautiful here...(Pause) I felt like Arwen.

Chris: Who?

Michelle: Arwen.. you know in the Return of the King.

Chris: Oh.

Michelle: (Laughing) We saw it together, remember?

Chris: Um... yes.

Michelle: That scene we both loved when Arwen becomes mortal so she can marry Aragorn. You cried, remember? We both did.

Chris: Michelle.

Michelle: Yes.

Chris: (About to confess) There's something... (Pause) No it doesn't matter..

Michelle: What Chris? What is it?

Chris: No, it's nothing.

Michelle: You wanted to tell me something.

Chris: Yes, but...

Michelle: But what?

Chris: I don't want to spoil anything.

Michelle: (Suddenly anxious) What is it Chris? Tell me. You've just made me so happy...I was floating in the air... don't scare me.

Chris: It's nothing.

Michelle: You have to tell me Chris, I know there's something, please, tell me what it is? I know! There's another girl, you've got another girlfriend!

Chris: No, no I haven't Michelle... I don't want anyone but you... you're the best... you're everything.

Michelle: (Soft and reassured) Oh Chris... thank you. (Pause) Can you tell me what it is you were going to say?

Chris: (Pause) I'm not sure.

Michelle: You don't have to if you don't want to.

Chris: (Pause) I don't know what you'd say.

Michelle: Is it something about me?

Chris: Yes... yes it is.

Michelle: And you?

Chris: Sort of... yes.

Michelle: What do you mean, sort of?

Chris: Well, yes it is.

Michelle: Tell me if you want to Chris... I won't mind.

Chris: If I tell you, you promise not to be angry?

Michelle: Do you think I will be angry?

Chris: I don't know.

Michelle: Give me your hand again.... (Pause) Let me see...mmm...this line is the truth line... if its straight that means your honest... well it looks pretty straight to me.

Chris: I hate telling lies.

Michelle: So is this about some sort of lie?

Chris: Not a bad lie.

Michelle: But a lie.

Chris: I only did it....

Michelle: Did what?

Chris: I don't know if I should tell you. (Pause) Look Michelle, I know This sounds crazy but do you mind if I leave you here for a few minutes while I make a telephone call?.... It's about this thing. I won't be long I'll just go over there and call someone on my mobile phone.

Michelle: This is so mysterious... what's it all about?

Chris: Let me make the call then maybe I can tell you.

Michelle: Okay. Go ahead.

Chris: I won't be long.

(SFX: Pause. Ambient sounds)

(SFX: Phone ringing)

Christine: Hello?

Chris: Hi, it's me.

Christine: I thought it might be Mum or Dad. Anyway, why are you ringing me, I thought you were on a date with Michelle... didn't she turn up?

Chris: No I'm here with her now. Well... not right here, we're by the harbour in front of the Cultural Centre.

Christine: How are you and Michelle getting on?

Chris: Really well... it's great.

Christine: Good.
Chris: Christine... how would you feel if...
Christine: If what?
Chris: If I told Michelle the truth... I mean if I told her that our first date was actually with you dressed up as me?
Christine: (Pause) Do you have to tell her?
Chris: (Pause) I think I do. I want to.
Christine: This is quite embarrassing for me you know.
Chris: Don't you want me to tell her then?
Christine: (Sighs) Oh Chris... the things I do for you! (Sighs) Okay... if you really think you need to tell her... go ahead and tell her. But I don't know what I'll do the next time I see her.
Chris: Thanks Christine... you're the best sister a boy could ever have.
Christine: Just never ask me to do anything like that again.
Chris: I won't... we're getting along really well... really, really well.
Christine: Okay, now get off the phone.. Mum is supposed to be ringing about now and I don't want the phone to be engaged.
Chris: Okay... before you go... do you think, if everything's okay... you could meet up with Michelle, I mean all three of us.
Christine: Okay. Better than bumping into her in the lift.
Chris: Thanks Sis. Bye.

(Pause. Ambient waterfront sounds)

Michelle: So Chris... have you made your phone call?
Chris: Yes.
Michelle: And? (Silence) Chris, please... don't keep me in suspense any longer!
Chris: (Taking a deep breath) Okay... Remember last Saturday, when you went to see the Lord of the Rings?
Michelle: With you, yes.
Chris: Well, it wasn't with me.
Michelle: What are you talking about... of course it was.
Chris: It wasn't... you went to see the Lord of the Rings... with my sister.
Michelle: (Stunned silence) Your sister?! But... I went with a boy!
Chris: She was wearing my clothes... she put on one of my old T-shirts, a really small one, and she wore one of my loose sweat shirts on top and she wore my sports cap.
Michelle: Oh my god Chris, you're joking... tell me your joking!
Chris: You see I had a really bad cold that day... it just suddenly hit me, I was coughing and sneezing... I felt terrible.
Michelle: So why didn't you phone me?
Chris: I didn't have your number, remember?
Michelle: Oh yes... that's true, but couldn't your sister have met me and told me you were ill?

Chris: I didn't want to let you down... it took me ages to pluck up enough courage to ask you out.

Michelle: So you got your sister... Christine right?

Chris: Yes.

Michelle: You got Christine to dress up as you!

Chris: Yes.

Michelle: So Christine became Chris.

Chris: I'm sorry Michelle... I just didn't want to let you down.

Michelle: (Pause. Then Michelle sees the funny side of it and starts to laugh, her laughter builds up into a crescendo) That's why... (Laughing) that's why she didn't... (laughing) ...and the sports cap!... that's why she never took it off! (laughing)... and that's why she cried in the film (laughing) and that's why (laughing) she knew the recipe for mango pudding... (laughing) and my friend Serena thought you were... (Exhausted by all the laughing, the laughing subsides) Oh my god Chris ... that is so funny... I haven't laughed so much in... (Sighs).

Chris: So you don't mind?

Michelle: I'd love to meet your sister, I mean as your sister.... she is such a character! She must love you very much.

Chris: That's who I spoke to on the phone just then... she said it was okay to tell you... and she said she'd like to meet you sometime.

Michelle: I get along really well with your sister.

Chris: I know, she told me.

Michelle: But there was something missing... something... well...she wasn't quite you.... almost... but not quite.

Chris: Phew! I'm really glad I've told you.

Michelle: I'm really glad you have too. (Little laugh) I can't wait to tell Serena! (Slight pause) But you nearly blew it Chris... that second date we had was horrible.

Chris: I know, I was nervous... I knew I was doing everything wrong but I couldn't stop myself... But now... well I think I've learned something.

Michelle: Oh Chris... what a lucky girl I am... in only a week I've found myself a boyfriend AND a friend.

Chris: And what a lucky boy I am...my goddess has come down from the sky.

(They laugh happily. Fade on laughter)

Music

The End