

I Wish I Was An Only Child – Chening & Sophie Duker

[Guitar and flute music]

CATHY MASON: Uh, okay. So the the dog has now stopped shitting on the floor, so, uh, the only problem we've got with the dog is we decided not to use treats and then she was shitting and pissing all over the place so we thought, 'well, let's try treats.' Within one day she was trained. She was outside because every time she weed or pooped she'd get a treat. And then we worked out she was faking shitting and poeing. So she was squatting in both feet, shitting position, which is tailbone under, and the pissing position, which is tailbone out. And she was doing it about every ten minutes. And me and Frank were like, 'this – she's got a bladder infection. This is a nightmare.' Yeah, she's been faking it.

RACHEL MASON: That's funny.

CATHY: So we've stopped giving her treats now. Yeah, she would squat – no, no, she'd squat in the garden, not shit, and look at us thinking we would give her a treat for squatting and we – we fell for it for about two days. And then we were like, 'she's shitting and weeing a lot.' And then Frank had a look at what was going on downstairs.

RACHEL: There was nothing in the garden.

CATHY: Nothing was coming out. She was just looking at us, getting a treat, and that's what –

RACHEL: That's amazing.

CATHY: So she associated the squatting movement with the treat, not the actual elimination.

RACHEL: Welcome to I Wish I Was An Only Child with me, Rachel Mason –

CATHY: And me, Cathy Mason.

RACHEL: Where we talk to other siblings about the dynamic of their relationship so we can see where we're going wrong.

CATHY: Today our guests are comedian Sophie Duker and her brother, entrepreneur Chening.

[Flute sounds]

CATHY: We always start with this. Who's the funniest?

CHENING DUKER: Ooh. Ooh. I'd – I think I'd have to say Sophie, you know?

SOPHIE DUKER: Oh. I think I'd have to say me at this stage.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: It would just be like such a crippling blow to my career and life. Like I would say – like Chening probably should've been a comedian, but I think I am currently funnier than him.

CHENING: Yeah, no, I – I think –

RACHEL: So Chening, could you have been a comedian? You are funny?

CHENING: Um, I – so I don't think I could do, uh, stand-up or be a like a performing comedian. I think I'd probably have done something like writing or – or something like that.

RACHEL: Right.

CHENING: I think that like the craft, when you – when you don't work on it and when you don't do anything, it kind of like withers. So, um, and I'm also like very socially awkward from all this pandemic stuff. Um, so, uh –

CATHY: Oh.

SOPHIE: Oh, that's interesting.

CATHY: Are you?

CHENING: Uh, well I – I find that like speaking is much harder after not like speaking to people in person. Just like finding the right words to say.

CATHY: Oh god, and you're doing a podcast.

CHENING: I know. So yeah, this is going to be exciting.

CATHY: Yes.

CHENING: If I start like making crazy arm movements, I'm just trying to remember a word or something like that.

CATHY: Exactly.

SOPHIE: No one will know because you're on a podcast.

CHENING: Uh, right. I will say – like I'll say like a word. I'll say like 'cucumber' and then people will know. And then they'll give me a break.

SOPHIE: It's your safe word. They'll be like, 'alright, we'll just respectfully take this out.'

CHENING: It's my safe word. I think everyone should have a safe word for going back into the public and – and speaking to people.

RACHEL: So Sophie, we'll obviously rewind and find out more about your childhood together. And I'd read that you went off to Ghana when you were four years old. Is that right, Sophie?

SOPHIE: Yeah. With Chening. Yeah, yeah. Not just like independently. I was like, yeah. Just –

CATHY: On the road. Got on a plane.

RACHEL: Off you went. Left him behind. So you guys went over for two years? So who's the older? Who's the older sibling? We should establish.

SOPHIE: I'm older. I'm older.

RACHEL: Right, and what's the age difference?

SOPHIE: Two years and 11 months.

CHENING: Two and a bit. Two, round down.

CATHY: Okay.

RACHEL: So you went and lived with your nan for a couple of years? So –

SOPHIE: Yes.

RACHEL: How was – how was that? I mean I'm interested in both perspectives. Obviously Sophie, you were older. But –

SOPHIE: Yeah. And still am. Um, so yeah. I went off with my brother and we were both in Ghana with my gran. And I think it was quite weird because like when I think about like being a kid and the earliest stuff I can remember, a lot of the strong memories are from that time. But I was just like – Chening's just a stupid baby at this point. So like all the like deep thinking and like discovery I was doing,

I wasn't necessarily – I didn't necessarily feel like Chening had fully entered his – sorry, I'm sorry I called you a stupid baby. But you were like significantly younger and went to like a different school. He went to my grandma's like sort of nursery school that was like in the house. So we had quite different experiences because I was going to – I never went to my grandma's school. I went to like a sort of big school in Ghana. So we were like a bit separate in what we were doing. And he was doing – like I remember him having a birthday party there. But, you know, they were all like two, so it was, uh, yeah, I think we had slightly different experiences.

RACHEL: Chening? You don't remember much, I'm guessing.

CHENING: Yeah. Yeah, no, I – I remember a lot randomly. Um, I'm pretty sure I had my fourth birthday party there. So I think we had really different experiences because like I, um, I loved it. As Sophie said, my grandmother had like a little compound and had like built a school in there. And as the school expanded she just like kept on turning like bedrooms and like garages and like side, uh, any space in the house into new classrooms. Um, so my bedroom was like right next to – like my window could see into the – the classroom. And, uh, these were like big concrete, um, there's like big concrete kind of like walls with open – open sides. So it wasn't like a closed-off room. It was just like walls delineating like this would be a classroom. So like I often, uh, would get tired at school and just go to bed.

CATHY: That's lovely, yeah.

CHENING: And then they'd find me and get like very angry. Uh, they'd – they'd be looking for me all over and then find me in my bedroom a couple of feet away. And I'd get in trouble. And we got whipped back then with like a cane.

RACHEL: Right.

SOPHIE: Not whipped. Like – like on your hand.

CHENING: Caned, yeah.

SOPHIE: Caned on your hand.

CHENING: Caned with a cane.

SOPHIE: Not like whipped.

CHENING: On – on the hand.

SOPHIE: I feel like you're going to really distress some people if you say that you were whipped.

CATHY: Do a disclaimer, yeah.

SOPHIE: In your grandmother's house for not being at school. Um –

CHENING: Yeah. Yeah.

SOPHIE: Yeah, like they all had little bamboo canes, all the teachers.

RACHEL: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Um, at the school. And they'd like wrap you on the – wrap you on the head if you were being naughty.

RACHEL: Right. Right.

SOPHIE: Which didn't happen to me because I went to the big school.

RACHEL: Yeah, so were you close as kids?

CHENING: In Ghana I'd say yeah. I mean like – well, actually in general I would say yes.

SOPHIE: Yeah, I would say that we were. I think like – I think like we – yeah, I think we were close in Ghana. I think that now it's quite weird

because we live on different – different sides of the globe. But when we were little like it was kind of like me and my brother in Ghana and then also our parents are divorced, so like – and there's only two of us, which I think is a kind of – small-ish – small-ish family. Like compared to both our parents at least who have, uh, who are like each one of four. Um, so I think like we spent a lot of time together. I remember like making Chening play a lot of games as like the older sister. I think we did quite a lot of playing together. There was a period where I think we annoyed each other, but I do think we were always close when we were growing up.

CATHY: How did the divorce affect – because it had a profound affect on us.

SOPHIE: Yeah, like me and my brother would go off to like my dad's house, or like to where – wherever our dad was staying. And I always felt like Chening as the youngest was like, 'yeah!' Like this might not have been what happened, but I was quite a serious child, and probably quite like a neurotic child.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: And Chening would be like, 'cool, we get to like have ice cream or do all this stuff.' And I'd be like, 'we can't accept gifts.'

RACHEL: We had the same.

CATHY: That's exactly the same as us.

RACHEL: We had the same. I was like, 'ooh, Christmas presents, more people in the mix, ooh.'

CATHY: And I was traumatised.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

RACHEL: Because I'm 18 months younger and I just didn't get it to the same degree.

CATHY: Yeah. She really didn't get it.

RACHEL: But, um, so and where did you grow up? Whereabouts in London?

SOPHIE: North London.

CHENING: North London. And then, um –

SOPHIE: Is the – the short answer.

RACHEL: No, give me the long answer. Yeah. Okay, no, right.

CHENING: Yeah, North London, High Barnet. High Barnet, uh –

SOPHIE: We lived at – we grew up mainly in High Barnet but we moved a lot before. I think we had like five different places in London we were living before we settled in High Barnet. Um, so – but it was always in North London. So we lived in Golders Green and we lived then like somewhere two roads away in Golders Green and we lived somewhere that was in like Woodside Crescent? We lived in a little flat in Woodside Crescent. We were like – yeah, just moved a bit. I don't know if you remember all of this, but –

CHENING: Yeah, I remember – I remember – we also got like a little – a little dog at, um, around the time we were moving houses all the time.

SOPHIE: Yeah yeah yeah.

CHENING: And so I kind of remember by the – the arrival of the dog, that house.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

RACHEL: Oh, that's nice.

SOPHIE: I remember I really wanted a dog when I was little, uh, and we finally got a dog after like a campaign of like a year to get a dog. And, uh, before we moved I remember because he like slept downstairs and I remember the first night him just crying all night. And you're meant to like – it was just like you can't go to him – like he would just weep all night, it's the saddest thing.

CATHY: We've just got one right now. We've got – it's downstairs and we've just got it and we're just going through that. It's making both of us want to jump out the window. [imitates puppy crying] It's hard.

SOPHIE: Oh, no. Aw, it's hard.

CATHY: So she might kick off any minute now, so heads up. If something starts kicking off. Yeah.

SOPHIE: Okay. 'Is someone crying in your house?'

CATHY: I know.

[Flute sounds]

RACHEL: Sophie, you were quite a bookworm. Is that right?

SOPHIE: Yeah, yeah I think that's – yeah. Probably like an understatement. Yeah. I read a lot, um, I think like family friends would have to come to the house really quietly otherwise I'd be like, 'read to me.' Um, so they'd have to like enter the house really – just to not – not let anyone know that anyone new was there to read to me. Um –

RACHEL: Did you read to Chening a lot?

CHENING: Not that I remember, no.

SOPHIE: I don't think I ever read to Chening. I think like – the creativity was that I would make up games for us to play.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Like I definitely did that. But I didn't read to him, because he like knew how to read. I wasn't going to read to him.

RACHEL: Okay.

CATHY: But did you find him irritating then? If you were sort of a quiet introverted – and you had this – this three years younger thing there. Did that drive you nuts?

SOPHIE: Um, did it drive – I think like we did have like some quite big fights. I remember once – I can't remember quite what happened. I think I like whacked you one day. This was like a big – like big fight. Like I was just like, he was being really irritating and I sort of whacked him, which wasn't really appropriate. Then he deleted all of the stuff – all of the shows I had saved on Sky Plus.

CATHY: That's horrible.

SOPHIE: Like I'd like clubbed him on the back of the head. All the shows that had been like recorded. And he sort of deleted them in this sort of like terrorist act, which I thought was like –

CHENING: No more of 'That 70's Show' or whatever.

SOPHIE: No more 'That 70's Show'. But that was really shooting himself in the foot. Because we used to both really enjoy those shows. And like sing along to lots of them.

RACHEL: So why did you do it, Chening?

SOPHIE: And you just like sort of Kamikazi – yeah, why did you do it?

CHENING: Oh, well – okay. Um, uh, I don't remember. I was obviously angry that she had hit me. And I wanted to – I wanted to strike back where it would hurt and it felt like the recorded – the recorded shows were the place to strike. And I also remember, uh, I'm not sure when this happened. But she definitely deleted a – a Futurama episode of mine. But, um, it's because she had bought me the DVD for like Christmas or – or my birthday. So she didn't want me to watch it before – before she gave me the present.

RACHEL: Ah, so –

SOPHIE: Oh, so –

CATHY: Oh, there was a reason. That's fair enough.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Okay, so I did like a really cute thing.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Yeah, but like – yeah.

CHENING: But like I only say that to – to kind of like describe the – the reverence of the Sky Plus recorded section. Also we were running out of space. Definitely we were running out of space.

SOPHIE: You deleted everything. You deleted – yeah, but there were like four shows that you knew I really wanted. You deleted everything on there.

CHENING: But sometimes you just need to, you know, like minimalise and –

SOPHIE: No, you did it as like a – you did it as a vengeful thing.

CHENING: And spring cleaning.

SOPHIE: You weren't doing it because we were running out of space, you did it because you were pissed off. You had a like sort of weird energy like when we came back because you were waiting for me to notice.

CATHY: But you don't remember why you hit him?

SOPHIE: I think he was being like – I think he just didn't really have like any respect. I think he was like – Mum was calling us and he wouldn't come, and like he was just being like really rude and like sassy. And he was just being like – I think he was just being sassy. And I was just like, 'ugh,' just like – I just like, yeah. I think I just lost my temper, which was like – we didn't really physically – we don't – we never physically fought.

CATHY: But did you verbally fight a lot? Did you – did you ever dislike each other?

SOPHIE: I don't think we did.

CHENING: I don't think we did.

SOPHIE: Did we? No, we were like – I think we were actually mates. I think it's just that Chening got away with stuff. And also Chening would be like naughty and like – when we were much younger, Chening would be like naughty and like land me in it, and sometimes could just – in my opinion Chening could just be like off doing his own thing so it could be quite annoying. But I think I felt very protective of Chening, actually. For a lot of like my teen years.

CHENING: Yeah, and – and it's worth mentioning, um, that like we – we travelled a lot. Like whether it was like, um, with Dad or with Mum. And we would go to like a lot of family events. And I think it was very much like it was us, uh, kind of like versus everybody else.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CHENING: Like we were kind of like a team. So like even, um, even for example like parties. Like we'd both be like dancing the Macarena on the dance floor like together.

SOPHIE: Oh, yeah, no, I –

CHENING: Or stuff like that. So I – I do think we were like quite a team unit. Especially when we were in, um, because we were in – growing up like all different kinds of situations. Like our dad moved to like Singapore, um, we – we have like an Asian family, you know?

CATHY: Yes, I read about that. Yeah.

CHENING: Now. So there's just tons of different, weird situations that you have to adapt or just weird places. And so I think, uh, that also like brought us together.

RACHEL: Yeah, having each other when you're facing those – all those different scenarios. Definitely.

CATHY: Can you describe each other? Sophie, describe Chening.

SOPHIE: Um, I would say that Chening is really charming and creative and like sunny. Um, and I would say that he's quite like practical and hands-on, uh, but a bit scatty. Not scatty, like a bit like big idea maybe. Like maybe not like super into like the detail. Like he's not as like self-conscious as me. Not to make it about me. Um, yeah. I'd say he's like a happy person.

CHENING: Yeah, I'll take that.

CATHY: Okay.

RACHEL: Chening, how would you describe Sophie?

CHENING: Uh, so I'd say very clever, very good at public speaking. Or like very good at like presenting or, uh, I think it makes a lot of sense that she went into stand-up comedy, um, I think like she has, uh, I don't know if there's a word for it. Let's see, cucumber. I don't know if there's a word for it. But, um, uh, she has a –

SOPHIE: Articulate? Amazing? Uh –

CHENING: No, but it's more – it's captivating, let's say. Captivating as a – as a presenter.

SOPHIE: Oh my god.

CHENING: And charismatic. She's very funny. Um, she's also – I don't know if this is a good thing, but – but like – I'll try and put a – like a nice spin on it.

SOPHIE: Wow.

CHENING: I think – I think she – she's very caring and like very protective. And, um, I think she probably maybe gets into her own head, um, about things that she shouldn't really like be worried about. Um, but I don't really have anything bad to say. I've got a lot of love for my sister.

CATHY: Do you mean she obsesses over things? She obsesses over things that she shouldn't obsess over?

CHENING: I – probably, but it's more – it's – yeah, I don't know. It's like – it's more – she mentioned that I'm kind of like a happy person. Um, and sometimes I think she has worries that like just don't – just don't enter my mind, right? Like, um, one thing was like we were trying to arrange what we're going to do for Christmas. I went up to South Africa to end up seeing Dad, and then, um, last minute I was like, 'Sophie, like Mum's going to be fine. She's going with her

friends. You should just buy a ticket.’ Like I don’t know when it was, maybe 15 days before travel, something like that. And to me this is the bit where I’m like, ‘it’s just a, you know, it’s just a plane ticket. Just buy it. Just come. Let’s just do it, right?’ Um, but I think that she was – she was kind of – and you can – you can interrupt me if I’m wrong. But she’s already kind of like committed to looking after a few of our cousins and – and, um, spending some time with Mum and all of this stuff. So it was – it was kind of like in my mind it’s a very – not something that should come with a lot of like, uh, complication, right? Um, but I think – I think maybe she thinks through things, uh, more deeply. Whereas sometimes I just like am like, ‘hey, it would be fun, so let’s do it.’

CATHY: So Sophie, if you have problems, is Chening not the person you’d phone?

SOPHIE: Um, because Chening lives in America. Because Chening was like, ‘bye, I’m going to go to America.’ I feel like there’s not a lot of immediate stuff that he can do.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: And because I feel like my role is like a – as the older sister, I think I’m not used to like sharing stuff with him. Like I wouldn’t talk to him about like sex or like partners or like stuff like that. Um, but I did come out to him first, uh, in terms of my family.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Which was really nice because he was just sort of like, ‘cool.’ It was like he was just sort of like very chill about it. I didn’t expect that he would have like a bad reaction to it, but, um, I think I – I think I did do like when I was a kid a lot of like, ‘I’m got to carry like the weight of everything on my shoulders and I’ve got to protect my

little brother and I've got to sort everything out.' So I wouldn't like confide in him the way that I would a friend.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: A trash friend. But um, yeah. I – I really appreciated that. And like I think if there was anything – I think we're trying to like check in about stuff that's like important now. Um, because I think you can kind of get caught up in like what your role is in like the family or like the unit. And then when that like context is taken away, you're just like, 'oh, I just really miss and like this person. I really like spending time with my brother. I'm going to miss him.'

CATHY: And Chening, you wouldn't phone Sophie because you don't have any problems? That's what I'm guessing. Because it just seems he just doesn't have any issues.

[Flute sounds]

CATHY: Did you share the same taste in television and music? And is that all the stuff that kind of bonded you? Television definitely.

CHENING: I inherited her iTunes library, um, so –

CATHY: Nice. Nice.

SOPHIE: Did you? I'm so sorry.

CHENING: Yes. Yeah, yeah. I still have the like – I still have some of them because I found an old hard drive. Like, uh, I had like all her P!nk songs. I inherited Sophie's tastes, uh, simply because like I didn't download that much on Limewire, so yeah.

SOPHIE: Yeah. I think we definitely had like the same like – we watch mostly like – there were some times where like we'd watch cartoons and I'd be like – like stuff like 'Courage the Cowardly Dog', I was like,

‘what is this trash?’ Or like ‘Ed Edd & Eddy’, I was like, ‘this is not good.’ But we really liked, um, ‘Cow and Chicken,’ which is also about a brother and a sister. I think the sister is actually meant to be younger but she’s physically bigger because she’s a cow. It’s a very good, uh, family comedy. Um, we like watched like loads of – we watched like, um, Dylan Moran. Didn’t we watch that together?

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: We watched Dylan Moran together, we watched ‘Blackbirds’ together, uh, we watched ‘Green Wing’ together I’m pretty sure.

CHENING: That was great.

CATHY: That’s amazing.

SOPHIE: So I feel like we had like a similar comedy sort of like taste. Watched probably a lot of the same shows, um, would quote things to each other. And I feel like, um, there was a text that I sent you a while ago. And also we hadn’t spoken – it’s like a – it’s like a tweet or a meme where it’s just like an astronaut lands and, um, like it’s like astronaut lands at NASA, do you remember it?

CHENING: Yeah, yeah.

SOPHIE: He gets out of the spaceship and he’s like, ‘the moon’s haunted.’ And the NASA guy’s like, ‘what?’ And the guy just like loads a gun and gets back in the spaceship and is like, ‘the moon’s haunted.’

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Um, and that – I showed to other people and they do not find it as funny as I and Chening had. It’s the first time I’m actually crying thinking about it.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Um, but I think – um, and I probably described it very badly. But I think we do have a very similar sense of humour, yeah.

CHENING: I think that we, especially when we're together, there's kind of like a different plane that we're on. Like plane of existence, um, where like I think because of all the games that Sophie created, uh, when we were younger. Like imaginary games, we – we can kind of like just go into these kind of like very weird, um, imaginary situations or like a certain sort of like joke or humour, um, that other people, it would just be like – go straight over their head. Like, 'what are they talking about?'

CATHY: What is the imaginary game? Can you give us an example because I don't – do you mean you'd set up a scenario and say, 'you are a certain character'? Or –

CHENING: It might be something like an equivalent of like, 'don't touch the floor because the floor is lava.' That sort of thing.

RACHEL: Right.

CATHY: Yes. Yeah. Yeah, I see.

CHENING: Like making up a situation like that.

CATHY: Yeah.

CHENING: But it could also be – it could also be like – the last time we were in Ghana, uh, and my girlfriend came, um, we just kind of like started improvising this song, um, and –

SOPHIE: Oh yeah, I think we did that a lot.

CHENING: Yeah, so we would like kind of like go into these improv kind of like scenarios or, uh, we had improvised a song which my girlfriend found like very very very annoying, um, and –

[All laugh]

RACHEL: I thought you were going to say she found very very funny.

CATHY: Moving. I thought moving.

CHENING: Oh, no, no. She was not – went like, ‘shalalalalalalalalala,’ right? And so there are lots of verses that always ended in like her singing, ‘shalalalalalalala,’ um, which would get on her nerves. And at the end of the song, uh, we said like, she lost her voice and she would never sing the song again. And then right after that the next verse was like, ‘she’ll never sing shalalalalalalalalala.’ [All laugh]

RACHEL: Okay.

SOPHIE: Yeah, yeah.

CHENING: And so it’s like – I don’t know, there’s loads of things that like we can just go into and find really funny that I think, um, other people –

CATHY: So you laugh a lot together. When you were kids you laughed a lot.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CHENING: I think so.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CATHY: Yeah, that’s amazing.

SOPHIE: And I think there are things which are like probably quotes. Like I – whenever I – like if I think of you and I think of you together I imagine you saying like, ‘fresh.’ I think you don’t think you’re aware of it.

CHENING: I remember we had like a lot of quotes from this cartoon called like – was it like – it was about spies. ‘Spy Groove?’

SOPHIE: Oh, ‘Totally Spies.’ Agent number one. And I’m agent number two.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: We’re spies, yeah. Yeah.

CHENING: Right. Yeah, exactly. So I don’t know. We have a lot of inferences that the listeners of your podcasts might not be –

CATHY: Yeah.

RACHEL: So – so Chening, and what you just said – Chening, you weren’t – you’re not surprised then that Sophie’s ended up in comedy?

CHENING: No. No, uh, I – I think, yeah, I’m not surprised. I’m not surprised at all that she went into some form of like, um, theatre. And she did like a lot of that in school. So she did, um, they had like a comedy show.

SOPHIE: Yeah, like the sixth form did like a – yeah.

CHENING: She did a bunch of that.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CHENING: I think she basically wrote it. Um, I think she’s always been into it, um, I wasn’t sure because then like I don’t know if the

traditional path is to go to Oxbridge and then do comedy, um, but it doesn't surprise me.

SOPHIE: Sadly I think that is a quite traditional –

RACHEL: Yeah, it is quite – yeah.

CATHY: Quite traditional, I was going to say.

SOPHIE: Yeah, quite a traditional path.

CATHY: And Sophie, has Chening ended up doing – because Chening, you're in tech, aren't you? Which just could mean anything.

CHENING: I'm in tech, yeah.

CATHY: Yeah.

CHENING: Uh, I, uh, I basically do software development, um, but recently I left my job doing cyber-security and I'm now building a local produce delivery service in Detroit.

CATHY: Nice.

CHENING: Um, which is tangentially tech-related because I'm building all the tech platform for it. But it's – it's more about, uh, food. Good food access. Yeah.

CATHY: Sophie, did you know he was going to end up in tech? Was he just that kind of kid?

SOPHIE: No, he was actually always cooking. He was always like – he was just always really inventive and always really creative. And like he would never wash up, which like would annoy me. Like but he'd always just like make amazing things. And we were always like in charge of making Christmas dinner. Like when we made Christmas dinner it's like Chening would make like a two, like a three day like

Peking duck. Or like he made like croissants with like Mars Bars in them. And once he tried to like use a like syringe to like inject an egg so that you could inject – like you could take out the inside of the egg and then like spice it and put it back in and cook it.

CATHY: What?

SOPHIE: Which I think ended up being disgusting. Um, but it's still really cool.

CHENING: Yeah. I'm flattered you remember that though.

SOPHIE: No, I remember all this stuff. And then you made like a – you like – we went away with some of our like aunties for Christmas once. And he made like a crepe Suzette with like mango like which was amazing. And like he always knew – you knew how to make – like I never learned how to make pancakes because Chening always knew how to make pancakes.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: So yeah, he's just like an amazing cook. And like just basically like very Willy Wonka-y in the kitchen. You once – you sent me soup at uni.

CHENING: Yeah. Yeah.

SOPHIE: I said I was craving – I said I was craving – but the way he sent it to me, he sent me like groundnut soup, which is like a peanut soup with chicken in it and boiled plantain, and he put it in a Ziploc bag.

CATHY: No.

SOPHIE: In another Ziploc bag, froze it, put that in an envelope and posted it to me.

CATHY: He didn't.

SOPHIE: And I got it at uni and it was like there over the weekend in my pigeon hole.

CATHY: It was okay?

SOPHIE: Oh, it was – no, it was rancid when I got it.

CATHY: Yeah, I was going to say.

RACHEL: But that's really thoughtful. That's so lovely.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: It is but it's obviously not going to work. It was like a frozen block of soup.

CATHY: It wasn't still a block. Oh, that's –

CHENING: I thought that if you'd got it – if you had picked it up as soon as it was delivered, um –

SOPHIE: Yeah, but I don't – like I didn't get an alert that something is there.

CHENING: Plus it's like an hour away.

CATHY: That's –

RACHEL: So do – do you still spend Christmases together?

CHENING: Um, well last Christmas we didn't because of the pandemic. Um, but, uh, we normally do, yeah. I think last Christmas might've been the –

SOPHIE: Yeah, we always do. I think we've spent every Christmas apart from last Christmas together.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: And the one before that.

CHENING: And the one before that when I was in South Africa. Yeah.

SOPHIE: Yeah. So yeah, most Christmases apart from the last two. Every single Christmas apart from the last two we spent together.

RACHEL: And – and what was the last present you bought for each other? Chening, what was the last present you bought for Sophie?

CHENING: It's the mic she's using right now.

CATHY: Oh, okay.

RACHEL: Okay.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Aw, yeah.

RACHEL: Sophie, the last thing you bought for Chening?

SOPHIE: I bought him a – an apron, I think.

CHENING: Yes.

SOPHIE: Well I actually got him something from Ghana from when I went the last time. But I bought him, uh, like it's this apron that has plantain on it. And like it's a mix – they have like Scotch Bonnets on it. It's like this really bright, jazzy kitchenware that I sent to Detroit for his birthday. And it's got like – yeah. I think it's like corn on the cob, Scotch Bonnet, and plantain. In like these like zany colours.

CHENING: I'm very passionate about plantain. Like, uh –

SOPHIE: Yeah, he loves plantain.

CHENING: Probably obsessed. So, uh, yeah. That's – that's the significance of the plantain apron.

CATHY: Oh, I see.

RACHEL: Right, yeah.

CHENING: Yeah, very special.

CATHY: And why are you in Detroit? Why did you move to Detroit?

CHENING: Um, I was just – so when I came to America, uh, I watched ‘American Pie: Beta House’ and I was like ‘I want to get – I want to get in on that.’ Um, so, uh, I was also super interested in start-ups, um, which has kind of led me to what I’m doing now.

CATHY: Right. Yeah. Yeah.

CHENING: But I felt like America was a great place for entrepreneurship. So I started looking at like basically all the – the good schools that I could go to in America. And at the time I was doing mechanical engineering and one of the best schools was Michigan. University of Michigan.

CATHY: Right.

CHENING: Um, so I ended up going there and that is very close to Ann Arbor. So when I, uh, left, um, University of Michigan and I got a job nearby, um, I just basically stayed in the area. And then I found a girlfriend and we moved to Detroit, which is like an hour away.

CATHY: And Sophie, how do you feel about him being there? Do you really miss him?

SOPHIE: I do really miss him. I do. I like – I didn’t like go to, um, because I was like at uni as well, and like all this stuff going on. So I didn’t actually go and see him at – in the University of Michigan until he was about to graduate. Like I went for his graduation as did my mum and dad. And I remember it was really nice like seeing his uni

experience but being like, 'this is so different from when I was at uni.' And just like walking around, like he didn't join a fraternity, which I'm really happy about. Because they all seemed like dicks.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: But like walking past the big frat houses. You were – he was like a sort of like rugby house, which in America it sounds like they're those sort of like weird misfits that don't try as hard as the football players, but also do – are extremely competitive and extremely sporty. Like Michigan is a very like sports, uh, uni. It is from what it seemed like. But everyone really like seemed to know him and he seemed to like have like loads of friends. And it just like seemed to like – it seemed like really nice. It was really nice seeing him be really natural in this environment. But it was just so weird. Like at his graduation it was like, 'this is the second biggest stadium in the world after North Korea.' And like then the like dean or I don't know, some woman that was in the middle of this massive football pitch put on some like sunglasses and everyone was like, 'woo!' And I was like – Chening wasn't even allowed into my graduation, which was in Latin in like an 18th century – like a –

CATHY: I was going to say, it's not like that at all. No, no.

SOPHIE: No. It was like – it was nice seeing him in this new context but it's just quite – yeah, I think it was quite hard when he moved away. And I was like – I didn't know we had the option to do that. I was like, 'what? Why would you go away? Why would you leave?'

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: 'Why, Chening, why?'

CATHY: Yeah, why? Come on.

CHENING: Well, uh, I – I just – I really loved travelling. Um, and, uh, I – as I said, like I really – I just really wanted the experience. I thought – I thought it would be super cool. Um, and yeah. I – it – it was mostly the entrepreneurship thing. Um, I – I didn't apply to America in the beginning. So I was actually going to go to Bath, um, University. Uh, and when – when I got in, um, I had time to kind of like think about what I really wanted to do. And – and I was like, 'I want to travel and experience something new.' Um, and I think our lifestyle up to that point had got me addicted on – on like travelling. And so that's kind of what I did.

[Flute sounds]

CATHY: Partners. Do you – have you always liked each other's partners?

SOPHIE: I think we haven't known about the majority of each other's partners.

CHENING: Yeah.

CATHY: Oh, really? Okay.

SOPHIE: Um, Chening's girlfriend at the moment, with whom he has a baby, is pretty much the only partner that I've knowingly met. Is that true?

CATHY: Oh! Oh.

CHENING: Yeah, yeah.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CHENING: Yeah. She's the – yeah.

SOPHIE: So yeah, that's the first one. You've met more partners of mine.

CHENING: Yes, I've met a couple partners of yours. Um, but I'm pretty sure, yeah, I didn't know most of them. I think I met one one time where, um, he might have visited the home. And he went for a nap. He took a nap. Yeah, I don't know.

SOPHIE: No, I don't think that was my boyfriend. I think that was my friend, Josh.

CHENING: Oh, okay. Maybe not.

SOPHIE: Yeah, I think – I don't think – yeah. Have you liked my – have you liked my partners?

CHENING: Um, yeah. Yeah. I mean –

SOPHIE: Who did you prefer?

CHENING: Um, I think – I don't know.

SOPHIE: Like we did – like when we were teenagers, like – well I didn't really – I didn't really date when I was a teenager because I was [sarcastic] 'so focused on my studies.'

CATHY: You were reading.

SOPHIE: Uh, I was reading. I was busy reading.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: I was worming on the book. Um, and so then I went away to uni. And then kind of like what happens at uni stays at uni. Like wasn't really – yeah. And then I was – I dated someone for quite – like I – I've had not that many long relationships. So there's not really people I would bring home.

CATHY: Right.

SOPHIE: Some people are like, 'hey, this is my family,' like straight away. But I think I'm quite protective of my family.

CATHY: Yeah. Yeah.

SOPHIE: So unless there's like a reason to do it I wouldn't like wheel someone in.

RACHEL: Yeah, and it's a long way to take them now to the states. So

–

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: I do love Chening's girlfriend, Olivia.

CATHY: Oh, that's good.

SOPHIE: If you're listening, which she will be. Because I think she listens to a lot of my podcasts. Um, but I think I was quite weirded out that she's like the same age as me. And I was like, 'what?' Even though it's not that big an age difference. It's like –

CATHY: Does that weird you out? Does that weird you – why does that weird you out?

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CATHY: Really? Okay.

SOPHIE: Well I don't know, I guess it's because it's like my younger brother.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: I guess they like have now bought a house and have a baby.

CATHY: Yeah, yeah.

SOPHIE: And I guess maybe because like – not – I don't feel competitive, but I feel quite relieved that Chening's had a baby so that kind of distracts my mum from me. But I think maybe that makes me think about it. I'm just – I think I just think of him as quite a lot younger and not necessarily doing the things that even I or my friends do.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: I'm not super weirded out about it, but I was just like –

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Also I think – because I think of my brother as being my little brother, I was like, 'why would you want to date your little brother?'

CATHY: Yeah, no. Of course.

SOPHIE: That's what I thought initially when I met her.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: But then I'm like, 'oh, right, because – because that's not the case for you.' I was like, 'ugh, gross. He's your brother.'

RACHEL: So who – out of the two of you, who's the most rebellious?

CHENING: Probably. Sophie. Yeah, definitely Sophie. I didn't – I don't rebel, really. Uh, our parents weren't like super strict, really, either. So, um, there wasn't much to rebel against. Like they were – they were, uh, pretty – pretty chill.

SOPHIE: I don't – I think Chening just had everything easier because he was younger.

CATHY: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Like on his 18th birthday, Mum was like – or maybe it was your 16th birthday because I think 18th one I wouldn't have been there or cared. But like maybe your 16th or 15th birthday, Mum was like suggesting buying like some alcohol, and I was like, 'why would you buy alcohol for like a' –

CATHY: Outrageous. Yeah.

SOPHIE: I was just like, 'oh, like this is like absolutely not something that she would ever have done for me.' And like when I passed my driving test like I didn't get a car but Chening immediately got a car. So Chening can now drive and I'm like, cannot drive even though I passed my test fast the first time. Um, and feel like I had to just fight for everything, but because Chening's a boy as well. As well as being younger.

CATHY: Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah.

SOPHIE: By the time it got to him my Mum was like, 'well, fine.' So I don't think I really like rebelled.

CATHY: You paved the way.

SOPHIE: I paved the way.

CHENING: You paved the way, maybe.

RACHEL: Yeah, but do you resent him for that, Sophie? Do you not resent any of that?

SOPHIE: I think it's just like a gendered thing. I think there's like – if I had been really good at cooking, I think people would've been like – like culturally somebody would've been like, 'well, you should cook. It's good. Like it's great.' People would just be like, 'oh my god, and

he cooks? Oh my god. What a wonderful like boy,' type thing. Um, so I think it was just the kind of older sister – like the un-fun older sister kind of vibe.

CATHY: Yeah, yeah.

RACHEL: Yeah. Who's the most competitive?

CHENING: Uh, I – I don't know. I think from our – from our days of playing articulate, maybe Sophie.

SOPHIE: I think I'm deeply competitive. I think Chening's a bit like chilled.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: Chening's just chilled.

CHENING: Yeah.

RACHEL: Yeah. Who's the most impatient?

SOPHIE: Me.

CHENING: Sophie.

SOPHIE: Chening is chilled.

CATHY: What are you jealous of in the other? Sophie, go. You go first.

SOPHIE: Why do I go first? Chening has to say it.

CATHY: Because you have to. No, okay.

CHENING: You don't have to. I can go first.

CATHY: Okay.

CHENING: I think I'm jealous of – Sophie has like a very strong like work ethic. And I think she like really goes quite hard and, um, and

obviously like she gets a ton of shit done and you can kind of like see that from – from the success she’s had. And I think that, um, I really admire like her grind. And I really admire her like, you know, and it’s good because like, um, she’s going to pay for all our retirements. So I really – I really appreciate the work she’s doing, uh, for the family.

SOPHIE: Chening made me, uh, a music video. On which birthday was it? My 30th birthday.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: It was like – it was really cool. It was like he’d like – it was basically like the whole premise was that he’d called all these like celebrities with like, uh, siblings. And he was just like, ‘we’ve got like – we’re in the famous sibling club.’

CATHY: Oh.

SOPHIE: I can’t remember who it was. I can remember their names, because it was something like Hugo Hadid –

CHENING: It was like Solange, yeah.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CHENING: It was like Solange, um, whoever, um, Hermione’s brother is, uh, it was the other Hadid, uh, so – so yeah.

CATHY: Yeah.

CHENING: It’s like an imaginary situation in which I’m a club with loads of famous siblings, um, and then I was singing about like how, um, life – how Sophie was basically buying stuff for all her family. And kind of like, uh, it’s called ‘Family Meal Ticket’, so, uh, that’s –

CATHY: Of course.

RACHEL: Nice. Nice.

SOPHIE: You should sample it in your podcast because it's some impressive bars.

CATHY: Yes please, we'd love to.

RACHEL: Yes. Yeah. We'd love to hear that.

[Electronic beat plays]

CHENING: Alex Watson, Jack Osbourne, Frankie Grande, Solange, Anwar Hadid, Jake Paltrow, Pippa Middleton, Peter Nyong'o, Nicky Hilton, Chening Duker, you're all on the list. Welcome to the club.

[raps] Peter's front row. Lucky front row. No promos when you're sold out though. Who needs a job when your sister's on TV? In the green room and I got here for free. Still flying EasyJet but in front of divider. Please put your hands up for my number one provider.

Comic timing is heaven sent. Now I'm sleeping on her couch not paying no more rent. I'm giving up all financial requirement. I'm 27 planning my retirement.

CATHY: So Sophie, what are you jealous of?

SOPHIE: I'm jealous that Chening can sort of I guess sort of not be affected by so many little things. I think I do worry and I think I imagine – I admire like his optimism. Like I think that I had like a lot of like, 'yeah, like whatever. Like whatever will come will come.' And then I feel like that gets like ground down and you can't be as happy go lucky all the time anymore. Or at least I can't. Because I'm ruined. Um, but yeah, I think I – I am jealous of some of that younger child like skip in the step. Some of that razzle dazzle.

CATHY: Yeah. Easy life, Chening, easy –

RACHEL: Yeah. Do you think you paved the way for me?

CATHY: Totally. 100%.

RACHEL: I'm not sure about that.

CATHY: 100%.

RACHEL: I'm not sure about that.

CATHY: Um, are you ever embarrassed by the other?

SOPHIE: I was really embarrassed of Chening when I was little.

CATHY: Why?

SOPHIE: Because I think I was just like, 'what will people think?' And I was just kind of like, 'I have to be like the sort of like ambassador for the – like the family' or just like – I was just very aware of – I think I was just like very aware of what people would think. And I remember one time, this isn't an embarrassed story, but Chening filled the kettle with sugar.

CATHY: Oh, why?

SOPHIE: And like – I think we were like quite young kids. He filled the kettle with sugar and like everyone knew he had done it. My mum was like, 'who's done this?' And I was just like crying. I was like, 'confess, confess. Like you have to confess because otherwise I'll get in trouble.' And I'm stressing out. And Chening was just like, 'wasn't me.' Like completely unbothered by it.

CATHY: No, Chening.

SOPHIE: Yeah. Yeah. He was just like –

RACHEL: Chening?

CHENING: I have no recollection. I have no recollection.

CATHY: Really?

CHENING: It sounds like something – it sounds like a scientific experiment I would've done, you know, um, to advance science and stuff. So –

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CATHY: So did you take the blame, Sophie?

CHENING: No.

SOPHIE: Um, I don't think I took the blame because I think it was obvious that Chening had done it.

CATHY: Oh, okay.

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: But I think he was just often like when he was naughty at school, when he was naughty – you were naughty at your first school, at Sacred Heart. And I had to like come and pick you up. I was just like, 'oh god, this is so embarrassing. Everyone's going to be like, "that's Chening's sister coming in."' Um, yeah, I – but I think it was just more like – I think it was more just sort of being like worried for him and worried about what people would think of our family. Like I think that – I think it is –

RACHEL: You said – you put a lot of responsibility – you put yourself under a lot of responsibility.

SOPHIE: Yeah. But now – but now he's proven himself to be much more responsible than me, so –

CHENING: I don't know about that. I mean – I mean I think we're – I think we both have like, uh, different – different paths. But, um, but I wouldn't say I'm that much more responsible than you.

SOPHIE: I don't know. I think I'm impressed by how responsible Chening's proven himself to be in recent years.

CHENING: Oh, okay.

SOPHIE: And like looking out and being like – to my mum like, 'what are we going to do about your mortgage?' And I'm like, 'what?'

CATHY: Do you think he is embarrassed by you ever?

SOPHIE: Should I say what I think he's going to say? Or should I say what he's actually going to –

CATHY: Yeah, go for it. Go for it.

RACHEL: Please, yeah.

SOPHIE: Okay. I don't think Chening is embarrassed of me. I just don't think he is. I don't know what I would've done that would be embarrassing to him.

CHENING: Well let's get – can I get the notes out? No, um, no. I've never – I don't think I've ever been embarrassed of Sophie. And, uh, yeah, no. She's like a rock star so, um, never been embarrassed.

SOPHIE: I'm going to cry.

CHENING: Even – even when like there's definitely been – I've come to comedy shows, um, and even if like the content is like pretty, uh, not like – not PG. I remember I went to a show and it was like, I actually forget what you were talking about, but it was something like I think normal people would find squeamish to listen to about their sisters. Like, I don't know, sex or periods or something like

biological like that. Um, but I just – I find it really funny and yeah.
Very proud.

SOPHIE: Also – yeah.

CHENING: So yeah, I don't think I've ever been embarrassed of her.

SOPHIE: Also all my friends tell me all the time how hot my brother is, which is quite –

CATHY: Oh, there you go.

SOPHIE: I used to find that very difficult. Um –

CATHY: Oh, did you?

SOPHIE: Yeah.

RACHEL: Oh.

CATHY: I thought you were going to say you were – you liked that.
No.

SOPHIE: Who likes – I mean, is that –

CATHY: I know.

SOPHIE: I mean it's like now I don't mind it. Now I'm like desensitised to it. Being like, 'uh, like he's your brother. Like what the fuck.' That's just like gross. Um, I don't think people have been trying to like convince me, like, 'don't you think your brother' – but I think, yeah, I think that's been a bit over the years. But I'm like – I take it as a compliment.

CATHY: I'd love it if people fancied you. I'd love it.

[Flute sounds]

RACHEL: Last question. Right, so, um, is there anything you'd like to say to each other that you've never said before? Chening to Sophie?

CHENING: Oh, um, I would just say because like now we have the – the chance, um, and I have her in front of me, uh, just to, um, say that I'm like super proud of her and think she's doing like really great stuff. Um, and so I have like Google alerts on Sophie and other family members. Because like you know when you're in a different country it's hard to see –

SOPHIE: You work in tech. Cool, yeah.

CHENING: Yeah, you're right. Um –

CATHY: Of course.

CHENING: And, uh, and I actually turned them to weekly, uh, a while back because it would just be like everyday and my inbox was filled with like, 'oh, you know, Sophie's doing this, Sophie's doing this, Sophie's doing this.' And I'm like, um, I also have Google alerts on me and they just like don't come up as much.

CATHY: That's sad.

CHENING: So I'm just – you know what? Let's turn it down to – let's turn it down to weekly. Um, but no. I'm so glad, um, I'm so glad that, uh, that that's the case. And I think that like, you know, growing up I think definitely, um, because we were so close, uh, she's influenced like me a lot. And I think like even things like she started offering massages to our parents, um, so I did. Uh, and –

SOPHIE: My mum has a bad back.

CHENING: I think a lot of – yeah. And then I – so I think like a lot of, um –

SOPHIE: I don't think I've ever massaged Dad, but okay.

CHENING: Yeah, true. True.

CATHY: That's quite – that's quite weird to say, I'll be honest.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CHENING: Right, yeah, sorry. No. we would – we would, uh, we would – eh, it's not a weird thing. We would like massage –

RACHEL: It's not weird, it's nice.

CATHY: No, I should – no, you're right. Ignore me.

RACHEL: Ignore her. It's nice.

CHENING: Yeah, you know? Everyone should be able to like give massages to their mum or, um, aunts. Um, so, uh, but it's stuff like that. I think like a lot of – a lot of who I am and like I think I by osmosis like picked up like a lot of the thing that she, um, was interested in or like she started. Um, so yeah, I think – I think Sophie is quite a large part of, uh, my life and – and my identity. Um, which is maybe something I haven't said before. Um, but yeah. I think, you know, part – I think part of the reason why I'm so hilariously funny is because of Sophie. So, uh, yeah. So I think that's what I'd say.

RACHEL: Thank you, Chening.

CATHY: Aw, that's lovely.

RACHEL: Sophie?

CATHY: Sophie?

SOPHIE: Um, this is so embarrassing because I've just been like silently crying since you asked the question. When you were like, 'do you have anything you'd like to' – and I was, 'uhh.' Um, so I can see

like a single perfect tear. The podcast listeners won't be able to hear it, but there's –

CATHY: I can see it. I can see it.

RACHEL: I can see it. We can see it.

SOPHIE: Roll down my face.

CATHY: Aw, she's got glistening eyes.

SOPHIE: My eyes are just like shining bright like a diamond.

CATHY: Yeah, it's nice.

SOPHIE: Um, and I think – I think there's a lot of stuff I could say. I feel like in this – I think what's nice to recognise during this podcast is that there is like a lot of love between me and brother, but we don't like – in like the way our family structure is and like where we live, we don't do like talk to each other every day, see each other every day. So I'm like – we can't have like a hilarious like – like, 'ahh, I'm just going to take the piss out of you because you're – I'm going to stick your head in the toilet.' Because I'm just like, no, I just like love you. Because you've just like been there for me through really hard times. Um, and I think the thing that I want to say as I sit under this blanket fort in my really weird living room, is that like – oh god, don't cry. Oh, I don't want to do one of the gross like emotional ones.

CATHY: No, I like it. Keep going.

SOPHIE: I'll do one where I'm like, 'surprise'. Um, I don't know what the surprise reveal would be. Um, I think like I haven't met, uh, my brother's baby yet. Um, but I think it looks like Chening's a really good dad.

RACHEL: Aw.

CATHY: Yeah.

CHENING: Thank you.

SOPHIE: And I'm really proud of him. And yeah. I can't wait until I can come over and see them both.

CHENING: Neither can I.

CATHY: How old's the baby?

CHENING: He's almost ten months.

CATHY: Aw.

RACHEL: Aw.

CHENING: Yeah. His name is Nalo, which means beloved.

CATHY: That's so lovely.

RACHEL: Aw, that's lovely.

CATHY: He's got a great aunt.

RACHEL: Yeah, what a lovely ending.

CATHY: The aunt relationship's amazing.

RACHEL: And it won't be – and it won't be long.

CATHY: She's my – yeah.

CHENING: Yeah. Actually Sophie sent like a recording of her like reading a book and then she added like sound effects, uh, for Nalo.

CATHY: Aw, that's lovely.

RACHEL: Aw.

CHENING: Um, so it's called like 'Riley can do anything,' I think. I'm probably butchering that.

SOPHIE: Yeah, no, I think it's called that.

CHENING: But, um, yeah. But it's – it's really sweet so we – we play it to him and so he can like hear her voice. But, uh, but yeah. He's got a great aunt and I can't wait in order to, uh, to get some –

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CATHY: Oh, that's amazing.

CHENING: Yeah.

RACHEL: Yeah. But the love you feel – the love I feel for Cath's kid, you know, made me want to have a child.

CATHY: Yeah.

RACHEL: I never wanted kids and then she had a child. Obviously we're very close.

CATHY: The aunt relationship's extraordinary.

RACHEL: Yeah so, oh, it'll be lovely. How exciting. When you finally meet –

CATHY: Aw.

SOPHIE: Yeah, also like his kid is like a hot kid.

CATHY: Oh, okay.

SOPHIE: And whenever I show like pictures of Nalo to people they're like, 'what the fuck? That is a hot baby.'

CATHY: Wow.

RACHEL: Yeah, that helps.

SOPHIE: He's so cute. There's a picture of him where he's like modelling a hat. Like he's wearing a sun hat and he's just like sort of like in like a – I think like it's like a red t-shirt or something, just being like –

CHENING: Yeah.

SOPHIE: And it's just like, what – who directed this photo? There's like a team, like Beyoncé's team are like spitting looking at this photo being like, 'how do we get these numbers? This kid is insane.' And I don't really like babies, um –

CATHY: You'll love this one.

SOPHIE: Yeah.

CHENING: Yeah.

RACHEL: It's a weird thing that kicks in.

CATHY: It's weird.

RACHEL: But it does kick in when it's – when – yeah.

CATHY: Because Rachel and me, she didn't want kids and then I had one.

RACHEL: When you're close to your sibling and they produce this – it's amazing. It's amazing.

CATHY: It's a weird relationship. I don't like her kid. That's a joke.

[All laugh]

[Guitar and flute music]

This has been a Little Wander production. Local artwork from Cathy Mason. Voice from Melanie Walters. Music from Rhodri Viney. With

special thanks to Beth Forrest, Steve Pickup, Sam Roberts, Henry Widdicombe, and Jo Williams. Other podcasts from Little Wander include Here to Judge and Welcome to Spooktown. Subscribe now on iTunes, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.