

I Wish I Was An Only Child – Sam & Teddy Leifer

RACHEL MASON:: What have you got on your hand?

CATHY MASON: Uh, I got scratched by the dog. Not deliberately.

RACHEL: Okay.

CATHY: She was trying to get out the fucking sling.

RACHEL: Okay. And you've – you've not ever done it. So do you think I should turn off my, uh –

CATHY: What do you mean I've never done it?

RACHEL: Can you hear the foot massager in the background? Or do you think that's okay? To leave it on.

CATHY: Rach, that's fucking weird.

RACHEL: What? But you haven't seen –

CATHY: Oh my god.

RACHEL: Yeah, I know. But I wonder if –

CATHY: She's got two. She's got one on her feet and one on her back.

RACHEL: I know. Yeah. The other – yeah. So I guess if you can't hear it, it's perfectly fine. I mean I am pensioner already. Right, shall we – so what happened at the vet's?

CATHY: I just bought some Crocs.

RACHEL: What happened?

CATHY: What happened at the vet? Oh, uh, what happened at the vet? No, there's nothing interesting that happened at the vet, actually. It was just boring and long and they talk about things that are not – yeah.

RACHEL: What was she there – what was Poppycock there for?
Injections?

CATHY: She was having her second set of injections just so that we could go out on holiday.

RACHEL: Okay. Right.

CATHY: Because she's not allowed near puddles.

RACHEL: Okay. Great, well that'll be a lot of fun. At least – because you're still training the puppy. Okay.

CATHY: She's just – basically what we do is I take her out for – me and Frank take her out for two and a half hours in the pissing rain, stand there, she sits under a tree and cries, and then we get back in the house and she pisses all over the floor. Every time.

RACHEL: And then you take her to the vet for injections. So she – I was thinking, she – she must be thinking life is awful. You know what I mean?

CATHY: She's having a great time. She's having a – she's loving it.

RACHEL: Really?

CATHY: But don't understand why she's a dog that doesn't like being outside. She just wants to piss in the house. That's it.

RACHEL: Right, especially in your house. I'm surprised that she doesn't want to get outside. Stay outside You can see the difference, Jo. My house has got love and warmth in it, do you know what I mean? Cath's has just got –

CATHY: Dog piss.

RACHEL: Yeah, exactly. Well now the dog piss is – is in addition. Mine is immaculate. Look at it, it's immaculate.

CATHY: Really great, Rachel.

RACHEL: Yeah, exactly.

CATHY: No – no character, no creative impetus.

RACHEL: No, it's got the, um, okay. Maybe we'll leave it there.

CATHY: Right.

RACHEL: Right. So welcome to I Wish I Was An Only Child, with me, Rachel Mason –

CATHY: And me, Cathy Mason.

RACHEL: The podcast where we speak to other siblings about the dynamic of their relationship to see where we're going wrong.

CATHY: This week we spoke to writer/ director Sam Leifer, and his brother Teddy, TV and film producer, who together head up their company 'Rise Films'.

[Flute sounds]

CATHY: So –

RACHEL: So –

CATHY: Who's the funniest?

SAM LEIFERACHEL: This is, uh, an interesting question.

TEDDY LEIFERACHEL: I mean Sam would definitely say that – that I am. But, um, I don't think that's right.

SAM: Wait, wait. I think I'll say what I'd say. So I think on paper, I mean you would say it – I'm the comedy writer of the two of us, with

the awards for comedy writing. So it would – it would say that, you know, that would indicate that it's me. However, when we were growing up, I think that Mum was quite often quoted as saying that Teddy was the funniest member of the family.

TEDDY: I think it's clearly – I think it's clearly Sam and I'm happy with that.

SAM: No no no.

RACHEL: Right, but why was –

SAM: Because like –

RACHEL: Why was Teddy the funniest then, growing up? Or why would your mum have said that?

SAM: I think that might've been straight after she told me that I was the cleverest.

RACHEL: Oh.

CATHY: I'm not asking who's the most intelligent.

SAM: And we had this – we had this thing in that – like Mum was not always – didn't always do like textbook parenting. So she would say, 'okay, Sam, you're the cleverest. Teddy, you're the, uh, you're the funniest.' And then we'd – obviously Mum was the nicest. And it became a bit of a game like that. And then Dad would say, 'well – well what am I?' And we'd go, 'well, you're the oldest.' Clearly that's what he had to settle for. He was looking for something like the wisest or the best cook, but he only ever got the oldest.

TEDDY: Didn't you –

SAM: But if you were to ask some other people who the funniest member of the family was, they might say they thought it was me until they heard my brother's best man speech. At which point –

RACHEL: Tell us more.

SAM: It became him in their heads.

RACHEL: Right, can you tell us a bit more?

CATHY: Oh, tell us more.

SAM: It was just a brilliant best man speech. Very very funny. And people - it was in Leeds. I got married ten years ago. That was probably the high point of Teddy's comedy career.

TEDDY: I'm not sure – I'm not sure it will have dated well, actually. I haven't –

SAM: Why?

TEDDY: I – I don't know.

CATHY: Can you do it?

SAM: Yeah, go on, Ted. Go on.

TEDDY: I don't know. I don't know. No.

CATHY: Can you do it?

TEDDY: No, I don't – I'm not going to do it.

SAM: Do the speech.

TEDDY: No, I'm not – that's not going to happen, is it? Um, I just –

SAM: Do a bit of it.

TEDDY: I just got a feeling that it's – the memory of it is better than – than what it was. Or I just don't think it will have dated well. I've got a feeling. A bad feeling about it.

SAM: People in – people in Leeds – like my wedding was in Leeds. I married into a sort of a big Leeds Jewish family. And there was probably 350 people there, of whom me and my wife only knew about 100. But in Leeds that best man speech still goes down in folklore. They still talk about it in Leeds.

CATHY: Oh, that's brilliant.

TEDDY: Yeah, but they don't have a lot of fun. They don't get out – you know, they don't get out much.

RACHEL: That's –

CATHY: I was going to say, it is Leeds.

SAM: They don't have much to talk about.

TEDDY: It's not – this big – the big Leeds Jewish community, it's a very – it's a tiny world. It's a very generous community, that Leeds crowd. They don't – they don't have a lot of fun.

SAM: They're your people.

TEDDY: Yeah. That's my – my biggest gig.

RACHEL: They're a good audience. So – so what's the age difference between you, Teddy and Sam?

TEDDY: It's two years and nine months.

RACHEL: Okay. And what was the family dynamic growing up? Can you give us a feel of it?

SAM: We were brought up in, um, a lovely, uh, loving house in Hampstead, uh, NW3. Um, we, uh, yeah. We moved to that house when Teddy was born. Or were you one, Ted?

TEDDY: I think so, yeah.

SAM: So they –

TEDDY: Well I don't remember the previous house.

SAM: They've been there – they've been there 37, 38 years. Um, and, uh, yeah. Very close-knit family. Um, eating all meals together. Breakfast around the table, um, which is – they – they live on this – this house that's very close to the Heath. And they've got a big window and people will come past the window and stop and chat. And it was just, yeah. It was a sort of warm, food focused, jokes focused family hub. Um, in Hampstead.

RACHEL: Nice.

CATHY: Oh, that's lovely.

RACHEL: Yeah.

CATHY: Although Teddy looks furious.

TEDDY: No, no. I think that was a very good description. I'd like – I'd sort of like to do it again.

SAM: What, you'd like to – to describe it again or live it again?

TEDDY: No, live it again. It sounds nice. Just go do it again.

SAM: Yeah.

CATHY: So how do you remember it, Teddy? How do you remember it? Differently?

TEDDY: You know, that's a fair reflection. There was a bit – I think there was a bit more shouting than Sam described.

CATHY: Oh.

SAM: Yeah.

TEDDY: It was quite – it was quite – it – but not in a – not in a bad way. I mean a really – a good amount of shouting, basically.

SAM: Yeah. Yeah, there were – there were blazing rows as well.

TEDDY: Yeah.

SAM: I mean like in that kitchen, I saw my mum pour an entire bottle of red wine over my dad's head. And him just have to stand there until it was all drained out. Like they have blazing rows. In fact this morning, like my – kid said to me this morning, 'why do you and Mummy argue so much?' And I said to them, 'you have no idea.' I said out of a scale of one to ten, where do you think Mummy and Daddy are on, you know, on – on the arguments? And they said, 'you're around a seven or an eight.' I was like, 'a seven or an eight? We're like a two or a three.' Our – my mum and dad were like a five or a six. So it was a lot of – there was – it was quite – my mum referred to the house we grew up in as the 'screamery', and she was always – always apologising to the next door neighbours about what they must have overheard.

CATHY: But who was the screamer? Your mum or both of them?

SAM: Her. Yeah, her.

CATHY: Were you scared?

SAM: Uh, my mum in full flow is quite a formidable, uh, beast.

TEDDY: But she doesn't really get there very often anymore. It's – I've not seen it in years.

SAM: No, I mean she's –

CATHY: But when you were growing – so you weren't frightened as kids? It was kind of just passionate?

SAM: What, we were passionate children?

TEDDY: No, we weren't genuinely scared of Mum. No no no.

CATHY: Okay, fine.

RACHEL: Yeah.

SAM: No no no. It was a good – it was the early 80s. Smacking – smacking on the bum was fine. That was the – yeah.

CATHY: It was. Yeah. Yeah.

RACHEL: Yeah. I remember that feeling of trying to run with your bum as forward as you can, you know what I mean? Just fast, fast, as far forward as you could get it. With that fear behind you. Um –

SAM: Yeah.

CATHY: Men do that.

SAM: We did a lot of bum forward running.

TEDDY: Anything was fine in the 80s. Punching, smearing it, the whole lot.

RACHEL: Was it just the two of you? No other siblings? Just the two of you, okay.

TEDDY: Yeah.

SAM: Yeah, well. Yeah.

RACHEL: That you know of.

CATHY: Oh, you just said that. Why did you say 'well'?

TEDDY: Because of Norbert.

SAM: Oh, no, I just – because I wound – I wound up my brother at one point when – you know, this was the sort of thing – this was part of the dynamic growing up, is that I would wind him up a little bit and I told him once when he was probably seven years old and I was ten, uh, that we had a sister that he didn't know about.

CATHY: Oh.

TEDDY: Called Norbert.

CATHY: And what happened?

SAM: And her name – her name was Norbert.

CATHY: Norbert.

SAM: And he completely bought it. And he was like, 'why – why do I never get to see Norbert?' 'Because she doesn't want to meet you. She comes in, Mum and Dad are embarrassed about her, so she lives elsewhere. And she comes in at night to see me, and she doesn't want to see you.'

CATHY: Oh, that's –

SAM: And she stays the night under my bed, and then before you wake up in the morning she goes.

TEDDY: She's very – she was always very tiny.

RACHEL: I can't – I – that's –

SAM: Brutal.

CATHY: That's – when did you find out that she didn't exist?

TEDDY: About three weeks ago.

CATHY: You've just found out on the podcast?

SAM: Yeah.

TEDDY: I don't know, I think it went along a bit for a couple of years.
Um –

SAM: Yeah.

CATHY: Genuinely?

TEDDY: I think so. Yeah, I think so. Yeah.

SAM: Yeah.

TEDDY: Norbert.

SAM: Norbert.

CATHY: You're embarrassed that you genuinely believed it?

SAM: I don't – I think – I think it wasn't a couple of years. It was – it was probably only until he asked Mum and Dad about it that morning. Although I probably told him not to because they –

CATHY: Oh, that's so sad.

SAM: Isn't that the worst?

RACHEL: He knows about – he knows about Father Christmas and Norbert. That's – so –

SAM: Isn't that the worst? For a brother to tell his little brother that they had a sister who existed but didn't want to know about them.

CATHY: That's awful.

SAM: Yeah, brutal.

RACHEL: Yeah. Yeah. So – but –

TEDDY: But when I told Mum and Dad about it, they couldn't believe it either.

SAM: Yeah.

TEDDY: They were like, 'well, why wouldn't she talk to us?'

SAM: Yeah.

RACHEL: But you got on as kids? Or Sam, were you just horrible to Teddy all the time?

TEDDY: No, not all the time.

SAM: Probably in the very early years when Teddy came along, I was probably a little bit jealous or felt that he – so I don't think for the first –

TEDDY: You can't – you cannot possibly remember that. You would've been three or four. You're saying can remember how you felt about me as a baby? You're just making this up.

SAM: No, no, I'm not – no, I'm not saying – I'm not making it up. I'm saying that I – I think that the, um, that we didn't get on as well in the first I'd say eight or nine years. There was a lot – we were – we fought a lot as children. There was a lot of –

CATHY: Because of jealousy?

SAM: Well I mean that's one explanation. I think – I think – but there was a lot of in the back of Mum and Dad's car that we would be whacking each other and shouting at each other. And they would have to pull over at the roadside and turn around, unclip their

seatbelt – actually, they weren't wearing seatbelts. Turn around to us and say, uh, and – and then whack us and shout at us and say that – that we can't have any more of this. So it was a lot of – there was a lot of fighting between me and Teddy. And then I think that when we were a little bit older, then we'd sort of – I discovered him as a person. As a, you know, potential ally.

TEDDY: And I was very glad to have been discovered. Um, but Sam, you – I'll tell you what's amazing about this. I don't, um – you know my memories start at about – very late.

SAM: Yeah.

TEDDY: And I just remember about 16 – maybe not – maybe not that late –

SAM: Yeah.

TEDDY: But I just don't remember much for some reason. And so I rely on Sam to tell me about, uh, what happened in our – in our childhood.

SAM: In our childhood.

TEDDY: And so I have to go – I have to go with his version.

SAM: I'm his – I'm basically Teddy's memoirist.

TEDDY: I – I cannot – I can't really dispute it. I have to go with his version.

CATHY: But that's the same as us.

TEDDY: I can't remember.

CATHY: Rachel, as the youngest sibling, has no memory –

RACHEL: Until I was about 13.

CATHY: I think we've abused them so badly, Sam.

SAM: Yeah, right. This is it.

RACHEL: I can't remember anything until I was about 13.

TEDDY: I – I'm really the same. I've not, uh, I didn't realise that was a thing amongst younger siblings. Or any – or – or people generally.

CATHY: It must be.

TEDDY: I just thought it was my thing.

RACHEL: I – yeah, I don't know if it is. And it – I hate it, because I have no – I feel like I've got no back story, Teddy. I feel like, you know, people say, 'when I was at school,' and I think, 'I don't remember any of that.' But I find it really frustrating.

CATHY: So you don't remember, Teddy, how you felt about Sam? Were you scared of him, or were you –

TEDDY: It's not really that I don't remember how I felt. I don't remember anything of what he's describing.

CATHY: Anything?

TEDDY: So, uh –

SAM: You don't remember us – us whacking each other in the back of the car constantly?

TEDDY: Not – not really, no. Um –

SAM: You don't remember any of the – of the violence between us in our childhood? There was violence. And you were – and you quite often one of the – the perpetrator of the violence. Most extreme violence.

TEDDY: I mean – well I must've been. Or the – or the defenders. One of the defenders.

RACHEL: What was one of your worst rows?

SAM: I – I viscerally remember – I think that Teddy was – I was more of a winder upper, and Teddy was very explosive in his rage and violence. And so I would wind him up to the point of that explosion. And I remember on one occasion, um, we were in the kitchen and Teddy grabbed a carving knife and chased me up the stairs to my bedroom. And I shut the door and I was absolutely convinced that if he got inside he was going to kill me.

TEDDY: I'm not sure this story's even true.

CATHY: Wow.

SAM: And actually –

TEDDY: This is – this is unbelievable.

CATHY: Exactly. He's going to say anything.

SAM: It is true. But the upside of it is that Teddy couldn't get into my room and he took the carving knife downstairs, and he's actually a brilliant chef. So maybe that was how he discovered cookery. By – by realising that the knife could be used for things other than stabbing your brother.

CATHY: Oh.

TEDDY: I thought – I thought well if I'm not going to chop his head off, I may as well get some parsley out of the fridge.

SAM: Yeah.

CATHY: Is that what you did?

TEDDY: And then that was it. And then I was off. Never stopped cooking since.

SAM: And he's a – he's a gifted chef.

[Flute sounds]

RACHEL: So –

CATHY: Can you describe each other?

RACHEL: Teddy, you describe Sam.

TEDDY: Sam is very very funny. Very very bald.

SAM: Oi.

TEDDY: Um, by choice. You've got a short haircut.

SAM: Yeah, so just say I – don't say bald. Say, um, shaven headed.

TEDDY: Sam is very very funny. He has a very short haircut. Um, he is, uh, kind and he's, uh, Sam loves family. And is a, you know, is very good at pulling the family together and, uh, and cares a lot about it and focuses a lot on family, I think. In his own and in our – and our wider family. Um, and he's the sort of – often the most fun person to be around. Often the most infuriating person to be around. For me.

CATHY: Why? Why infuriating?

TEDDY: Because he – because you enjoy winding people up so much. And I'm one of them.

SAM: I've mellowed.

TEDDY: Um, well that's – Dad said that when you had kids, you were going to – you were going to mellow. You were going to lose your edge, is I think is what he said. Right?

SAM: Yeah.

TEDDY: Well you haven't lost your edge. You haven't even a bit. You – I don't think you've mellowed.

SAM: More edge.

TEDDY: I think you've sharpened.

SAM: Sharpened.

CATHY: Your poor kids.

TEDDY: I think you've sharpened.

SAM: Sharpened, yeah. I'm still sharpening.

TEDDY: Anyway, you relatively pleased with my description?

SAM: Well –

CATHY: I think that's good, yeah. I think.

SAM: Yeah, it could've gone worse.

RACHEL: That was nice. No, he's – he's not asking you, Cath. He's asking Sam.

TEDDY: Yeah, I was asking Sam.

CATHY: Oh, sorry, I thought you were asking me. I'm so sorry.

TEDDY: But no, I'm curious about your feedback as well. It's your show.

CATHY: Okay, I'll give you your feedback afterwards. Go for it, Sam.

SAM: Um, no I think it could've gone much worse. You know, it got off to a bumpy start with the talking about the baldness, which as you noticed, I mean the –

RACHEL: So –

TEDDY: Short hair.

SAM: The listeners won't be able to tell, but there's one of the brothers got the wit and the intelligence and that sort of thing. And what the other brother got – the hair.

TEDDY: No, that's very kind of you to say. But the – I did make him – that was a slip up. Because as you know, Sam, I have always been a big supporter of the bald community. I didn't mean to say bald. I should've said short hair. And I regret that.

SAM: Yeah yeah. That's fine. It's fine, I've come to terms with it.

RACHEL: Okay, so there's – there's no issue there. Sam, can you describe Teddy please?

SAM: A very violent chef. No, a very violent, talented chef.

RACHEL: Perfect.

CATHY: Oh.

RACHEL: Nice, so –

TEDDY: Violent – the focus on violence in our family is –

SAM: No, no. Okay, no.

RACHEL: Yeah, no –

CATHY: I was going to say –

TEDDY: We are going to sound like absolute psychopaths. Like –

SAM: I know, I know. I know, violence is such a small element. We sound like the Sopranos.

TEDDY: And Sam has made out like violence was the – was and is the theme of our lives. I mean it's extraordinary.

SAM: It was the Sopranos of NW3. Um, no –

RACHEL: Yeah. Well we –

SAM: Teddy – Teddy I would describe, you know, Teddy and I share a lot of things. We share – I'd say we share a sense of humour, which is why we are able to work together in comedy. And Teddy, um, is, um, amazingly, uh, is also very kind. He's also very funny. Um, and also very loving of his family. But he's also, uh, I'd say, got a wisdom that I don't have. And he's – he's more sensible than me, um, and more – I think, you know, most of the time he's more stable than me. Um, but he's, you know, we do have a – an older brother, younger brother dynamic, I would say. Um, especially with an older brother who is a bit of a showman and a bit of a, you know, a windup. He – Teddy, certainly in the first 20 years, found a role for himself that, um, you know, with – our family is like a jigsaw puzzle and everyone has to find the – between the four of us found a role for themselves. Um, and yeah. Teddy, for a certain time I think, was the – the younger brother role. And then I went – I left home and within Teddy's social circle, within – amongst his friends, I'd say he's – that's not his role. His role is much more sort of dominant and also, you know, he's got his own family now. And within his – in New York, he's much more of a sort of dominant older brother or dominant figure. Would you say that's right, Teddy?

RACHEL: That's really interesting.

TEDDY: Yeah, I don't know who I'm dominating in New York. Um –

RACHEL: But you fundamentally came out of yourself a bit more once Sam had gone. That's the point, isn't it?

TEDDY: That's interesting. Maybe a little bit.

SAM: And – and at work.

RACHEL: Yeah, there was more space.

SAM: At work. You know, Teddy –

TEDDY: Oh yeah.

SAM: Teddy runs the company that we share. I'm – I run the comedy department, but it's fundamentally Teddy's company. And he's got a staff there who look up to him as the dominant father figure, whatever it might be. It's his – it's his show. Um, and so he's not – he's definitely not any sort of supporting role there. He's the dominant role.

CATHY: But hang on, Teddy. How did you react when Sam left home? Did you shit yourself? Were you relieved?

RACHEL: Can you stop – you're meant to swear less.

CATHY: Sorry, I'm not going to swear as much. Sorry.

RACHEL: Can you re-say it again?

CATHY: I can edit that out.

RACHEL: No, say it again.

CATHY: Go. Uh, um, Teddy, how did you feel when Sam left home?

TEDDY: Yeah, I shat myself. Um, uh, so, um –

SAM: See, he's funny.

TEDDY: I don't know, um, I – I mean I guess I must have memories at that point. I was about – I was 16.

CATHY: Yeah.

TEDDY: I think probably there was a – there was a moment when I was able to spread my wings a little bit, but I missed him as well. Um, and I think probably we – we probably started getting close around about then.

SAM: Yeah.

TEDDY: Because I was able to – there was a bit more of an equal footing and I was – and I missed him. And then actually a few – only a few years after that we started doing bits of work together. Um, but it probably was around –

SAM: Actually –

TEDDY: Those two things probably collided a bit. Sam leaving home and, um, Sam, sorry, did you want to talk again?

SAM: And – yeah, I want to talk. I haven't talked in a while.

TEDDY: More talking.

SAM: Um, so only – only recently my parents – my Mum has had a clear-out of our old bedroom and said, 'look, you've been gone 20-something years now, it's time you took all of your crap.'

TEDDY: I'm very annoyed about it.

SAM: She's been like delivering boxes of stuff, uh, to us. And I had like loads of my old scrapbooks and – and things that I collected over the years. And I found a letter from Teddy, from a 15-year-old Teddy, to me about how much he was going to miss me when I –

CATHY: Oh.

SAM: Left home. And I took a picture of it and I Whatsapped it to him. And it was really nice. It made me feel so – it made me feel so happy about re – because, you know, we never really – we don't

really discuss this stuff, but the – the fact that he was going to miss me and that he referred to various in-jokes we had and all of the things he was going to miss about me, was just really special to read that. This was only about a week ago, two weeks ago.

CATHY: Oh.

RACHEL: That's lovely.

SAM: Yeah, it was really nice.

CATHY: Oh, so do you not kind of talk about shit? Do you –

RACHEL: Again. There it is again.

CATHY: Sorry, do you not – sorry. So are you kind of more of a joshing relationship rather than an intense, discussing emotions relationship?

RACHEL: Discussion-ing.

CATHY: Fuck off.

SAM: Yeah, I – it's partly because we're boys I think.

CATHY: Yeah.

SAM: And I think that boys are much less likely, especially British, we're quite British. Actually especially Teddy, um, in that sort of reserve. Um, and so we're less likely to – and also Teddy's – we're both quite busy. So the chances of us having deep meaningfuls is few and far between.

TEDDY: We do it occasionally. Like if there's a crisis that like propels it to happen.

SAM: Yeah. Yeah, that's – yeah, that's – yeah.

TEDDY: We do it – we do it occasionally.

SAM: If something's gone really wrong. If we've had a – if we've had a big bust-up it might require us to talk a bit more deeply. Because we – it's not all plain sailing.

RACHEL: So you're –

CATHY: And do you have big bust-ups?

TEDDY: Occasionally.

SAM: Yeah.

TEDDY: Quite – quite infrequently.

SAM: I'd say about once a year we have a – a big, big –

RACHEL: And is it generally work related?

SAM: It can be – it can be precipitated by work, but it can be – anything can really trigger it. But it – it will – it will be a, you know, we have – we'd have to have a – a state of the nation talk after it, where we have to –

CATHY: So will you stop talking to – how does it work? Will you stop talking to each other? Who – who approaches the other? How do you do it?

SAM: There's – there's usually a flashpoint. And it can be – it can come down to something as pathetic sounding as a piece of casting on a TV show. A comment that I've given him in an edit about – or a comment he's given me in an edit and how I've responded to it. It can – it can set a – the touch paper that will lead to a bonfire very very quickly. And then we'll shout at each other, resent each other, and then we talk the next day. We don't – we don't let things linger very often, do we, Ted?

CATHY: No.

TEDDY: No, and where – where we get to is Sam will tell us both how to feel about it, um, in the end. And then –

CATHY: I knew you were going to say that.

TEDDY: And then it's resolved. So there's, you know, he – Sam ties a nice –

RACHEL: I relate to that so much. Yeah.

TEDDY: Ribbon on it and then we do a podcast. And, uh, like this. And that's it. All good.

SAM: Sticking plaster. Teddy and I actually – we went – we – we've been to therapy twice, right? Once was –

CATHY: Nice.

SAM: Once was as a family. And this is partly about, you know, Teddy's role within the family was – we went – I was – I was a rebellious teenager. And when I say rebellious, I say rebellious in sort of middle class Hampstead terms of – on the spectrum of rebelliousness it was not very rebellious. But I was, um, angry about my curfew. About what time I was told to come in. I was angry about the amount of pocket money I was being given. I was angry about how much I was being – that I wasn't allowed my girlfriend to stay the night, even though we were 15, 16. I was really angry about that stuff. So my parents' response was like, 'right, we're going to therapy. We're going to family therapy.' So we went to this brilliant therapist in Highgate, and Teddy was dragged along. And his – his attitude in the therapy was very much, 'why exactly am I here? What's this got to do with me?' Because he'd not done anything wrong, he wasn't angry about anything. He didn't have any, uh,

grievances to air. But he was just sort of dragged along. And there was a lot of that stuff going on at the time when I was in that sort of phase between 14 and 19, where I was just sort of chucking shit about. And Teddy got caught up, um, in the –

RACHEL: Teddy – Teddy, do you remember that?

TEDDY: Yeah, I remember that – yeah, I remember that Highgate, um, uh, room quite clearly. And I – I think there were quite a few sessions. And I do – I definitely remember that feeling of sort of looking around the room. I think I was sort of trying to make eyes at the therapist to ask him why I was there. But, um, I guess – I guess it was sort of nice to be there with – with the – I guess – I guess I'm – I'm glad to have taken part in that group.

SAM: Yeah.

TEDDY: They – they probably made me say stuff.

SAM: Yeah, there was a flashpoint I think I remember that led to – there was – a part of the rebellion was that – that I – I was seeing this girl who I went – I wanted to go to her – she was having a party. And I didn't want my parents to get involved with – I think this was when we were 15 – I didn't want my parents to get involved in, 'where's the party? Are her parents going to be there?' All this stuff. Because I had, you know, some street cred. So I lied to them and told them that I was staying out at my mate's house. Um, and my mum called my mate's mum to say, 'thank you for having him to stay,' and she said, 'no, he's not here. I'll tell you exactly where they've gone.' And me and my friends had picked up some booze and were walking to the party. We're walking down the street with the – with the, uh, plastic bags full of booze. And all of these girls had come out of the party to greet us. It was the boys, it was like, you know, 'West Side

Story' or something. And the girls were – seven brides for seven brothers. The girls were coming out to greet us. And just as I'm about to see this girl whose, uh, party it is and deliver all of the alcohol we bought, suddenly my parents pulled up in their big car, which was, um, it had the AV-van sliding door. And my mum slid open the door just as I was about to say hi, and said, 'get in the car. Now.' And I just –

CATHY: That's awful.

SAM: Look and Teddy was in the car in his pyjamas. He'd been dragged out again.

CATHY: Oh, Teddy.

TEDDY: Exactly. The ride-along, you know? I had no role once again.

SAM: And I hand – I just handed the booze to my friend, I didn't get to say hi to the girl, I just got in the car and she slammed the car door and said, 'right, we're going to therapy now.'

[Flute sounds]

CATHY: Teddy, did you not rebel?

SAM: Didn't have to.

TEDDY: No, well here's the thing. By the time it came to my, um, teenage years, Mum and Dad were so knackered by Sam, that they actually didn't really –

SAM: They had no fight in them.

TEDDY: I think what happened is they didn't really ask me questions. I sort of behaved because I had nothing to rebel against in a way. They weren't – I wasn't being pushed in a particular direction by them because I wasn't being – there wasn't a lack of trust. So – or at

least I didn't feel that. So as a result, I think I – I behaved a bit better. And I would come in and, uh, I – you know, I think I would stay out late but come back in and not have done terrible things during the night. And they wouldn't ask me why I came in so late. Or it just wasn't a problem.

SAM: I cleared the path for him. I did a fantastic job then.

CATHY: But was Sam a kind of heroic figure to you?

TEDDY: I guess so. No, I guess it's – I guess it's certain periods it – yeah. I guess when I was in my early teens, there was some, uh, element of Sam being a hero, yeah. Because your older brother is – I think that's quite – I think that's quite a, um, a traditional dynamic in a way. So I think that – that was present.

CATHY: Doesn't work with girls.

RACHEL: Yeah. No, no.

SAM: But – but by the way, he – he – it wasn't just that he was this shadowy figure in pyjamas in the back of the car. He also ploughed his own furrows in certain – in a lot of things that were very much his thing. And I know I've joked about the chef-ing, but he started working in, uh, kitchens and restaurants from the age of, what was it, 13?

TEDDY: Yeah.

SAM: 13. Because he decided – he really liked, um, cooking. And they could – you know, Mum and Dad I think could tell that there was a talent there. And I think a friend of my parents for his Bar Mitzvah, got him and – I don't know if this sounds like a present, but they got him an apprenticeship in – or like two sessions working in a kitchen of a quite a fancy local restaurant. And he went in there and in his

two sessions he impressed the head chef so that they invited him back and paid him. And then he worked in about three or four kitchens throughout his teenage years because he was such a talented chef, and considered – so he had that, and he was also a talented table tennis player, which is about the geekiest sport you could come up with.

CATHY: Wow. Yeah.

TEDDY: And the thing about that is that I was a really good table tennis player. And I was playing at like county level and stuff. But here's the thing. I – I sort of recognised it wasn't – it wasn't helpful with kissing girls, which is something I decided I wanted to do at about age 14. And so I gave it up. But there was really no change to the status of the kissing of the girls after that. So I should – if – I just gave up table tennis. It's just a sad thing. Just gave it up. Didn't kiss any more girls.

RACHEL: How did you end up – so all of this, how did you end up working together?

SAM: Um, well the reason that we started working together, I don't know if we've ever spoken about this, but I was – I was doing a lot of, uh, student drama when I was at university. I was acting in and directing plays. But actually before that, Teddy had made a short film with his friends. Uh, he had some – talented group of friends. And one of them had written a – a short film script and another one was going to direct it. Teddy put his hand up to say that he wanted to produce it. He produced this short film, and I went down to visit set one day, and I saw Teddy producing. And I saw this other guy directing and this other guy writing, and I felt this sort of pang of jealousy.

CATHY: Oh.

SAM: I was like, 'no, why – why is my brother producing for these guys? I'm a creative type as well. I want to – and I had this – there was this moment there, um, and then yeah, I was doing the student things. And then I started writing short films and Teddy was the most obvious producer because, you know, we shared a bathroom and a hallway, so it was very easy to –

TEDDY: I was literally in-house.

SAM: He was a, yeah, in-house producer. So it started like that, with shorts.

RACHEL: Yeah. That's – yeah.

CATHY: Because that's what everybody keeps asking us about how – are people are so shocked when you say –

RACHEL: Well, because you dragged me everywhere with you.

CATHY: Well I've dragged –

RACHEL: But actually, Sam, you – you were jealous of Teddy. You were inspired by him and you thought you want to work with him.

TEDDY: Well I think you might've had the idea that you might want to direct film and television one day, but you weren't necessarily doing it yet.

SAM: Yeah. I wasn't jealous of Teddy, I was jealous of the people who were getting to work with Teddy.

RACHEL: Yeah. Sorry. But you – it propelled you, is the point. You saw him and thought –

SAM: It – it did. It definitely had – it definitely had an impact. Um, and then, you know, after university when I started writing and directing, uh, for hire, um, and it eventually came to the point where I had – you know, it was time that I came up with my own show. And it was then that Teddy and I had to have a discussion about whether I take that to one of the other production companies that I'd already started working for, whether that was 'Baby Cow' or whoever it might be. Or that we do it through 'Rise Films', which was Teddy's documentary production company. Uh, which was at that point completely untested for comedy. But was a production entity. And, you know, that was a tough conversation because there was no track record there. So it was – might – would have been much easier to go to Henry Normal and do it through 'Baby Cow' or something.

CATHY: Yeah, that's brave.

SAM: But, uh, we decided to sort of go for it together and obviously the rewards were greater if we could make it work. And we did, you know? That was eight or nine years ago. But – but before –

CATHY: And you've never regretted it?

SAM: No, I've had regrets – I've never regretted that decision. I've had regrets about sometimes about working together and about whether us working together negatively affects our, um, relationship as brothers.

CATHY: Totally.

RACHEL: Yeah.

SAM: Or compromises it. Because I would – I mean I've always – when Teddy and I have these heart to hearts, that's always the thing that I'm very keen to make clear. That our relationship as brothers

comes first. And if I ever felt that our relationship as brothers was being compromised, that I would want to stop working together.

CATHY: Teddy, do you agree?

TEDDY: Yeah. This is definitely one of his – it's definitely one of his, uh, theories. One – uh, and I – I don't know. I'm not sure. I'm not sure I sit quite – I'm not sure I sit in quite the same clear way that Sam does. Because I think that obviously all siblings have complicated relationships. And I'm not sure to the extent – I'm not sure how much our relationship is further complicated by work, actually. I think that it also gives us an opportunity to spend more time together and – and be playful together and – and learn stuff together. So I – yeah, I'm – I'm not always sure that it creates this formality in the way that Sam describes it.

CATHY: But if you felt that the relationship – that the relationship was compromised, would you walk away from the business? 32:18

TEDDY: If I felt it was compromised caused by the business, yeah of course.

SAM: Yeah, I – I –

TEDDY: I would never – I would never preference the business over – over sibling relationship.

SAM: I mean I – my fear is that, uh, that Teddy gets to the end of the week working with me and I – is sick of me and therefore wouldn't want to see me on the weekend. That – that's what I worry about sometimes. And I want to see him on the weekend. And especially since we've had kids. In fact, I think having kids has changed things again for us, in that it's given us a further reason to see each other to get the cousins together and that's been great. I mean look, my mum's fear is that she – of us working together, is that she has to

come down to set and separate us. That's her line always. That she has to, you know, tear us apart from each other.

CATHY: Oh, right.

SAM: Whereas we would ever – only ever see her in more of a catering role. Um, you know? But, um, there's also –

TEDDY: But I – I think we're – we are – we're much worse behaved in the family dynamic in the family unit. When – probably when Mum and Dad and around and we slip into those roles, than we are on set. I think Mum's much more likely to have to separate us in the future in their kitchen than on set.

SAM: Yeah, maybe.

TEDDY: And you're much – I mean you're much better behaved, um, at work than you are at home basically, I think. Nicer.

SAM: Maybe.

CATHY: Sam, you really want Teddy's approval more than Teddy wants your approval. That's right, isn't it?

SAM: Yeah, weird that. Isn't it?

RACHEL: Yeah.

CATHY: I mean extraordinary.

SAM: Teddy, do you approve of me?

TEDDY: I do approve of you, yeah. I – I approve this but –

RACHEL: This is good.

CATHY: I don't know if he approves – do you approve of anyone, Teddy? Be honest.

TEDDY: Yeah yeah. I approve of everyone on this – I approve of you two very much.

CATHY: Excellent work.

RACHEL: That's good. We're lucky.

SAM: But there's also – there's also family history, as in, you know, a lot of Jewish families, um, they're – the two generations above us, they quite often have been in business together. So our grandma on my dad's side was in business, uh, clothing business with her three sisters and one brother. So it was Julia, Ethel, Celia, our grandma Rose, and Bernard, only ever known in our family as 'bastard brother Bernard.' BBB.

TEDDY: BBB.

SAM: Because they worked together and then – and he was in charge of the finances. And he went and spent all of the money gambling on the GGs. And then they didn't ever speak to him again. And I think that when my parents have ever warned us off working together, that has been sort of semi – semi present.

CATHY: Of course.

SAM: That there's a BBB situation.

CATHY: Yeah.

SAM: There is this history of siblings working together and then having some huge bust-up and never speaking to each other again.

CATHY: By the way our great-grandfather's called Solomon – was called Solomon Solomon. How Jewish does that get?

SAM: So good they named him twice.

[Flute sounds]

RACHEL: Teddy, what was the last present you bought for Sam?

TEDDY: Oh, it was good, actually. I bought him – he was – he recently moved house and I bought him, uh, for Christmas – Hanukah, Christmas- um, 20 packs of good smoked salmon to put in his freezer. In his new freezer.

CATHY: That's awful.

TEDDY: It's not awful, it's brilliant. What do you mean it's awful?

CATHY: That's awful.

RACHEL: I think that's brilliant.

CATHY: I'd hate that.

TEDDY: It's an amazing present. It's what I – I'm really happy with it. It's –

SAM: Well I thought it was 24.

TEDDY: Oh 24. That's right. Because it was meant to be a – it was meant to be a year's supply. You know, you know. Not that there's 24 months in the year, but you get it.

SAM: Two.

CATHY: I was going to say.

RACHEL: Yeah, two a month.

SAM: I've eaten most of it.

TEDDY: A couple at a time. A couple at a time. It's great smoked salmon, isn't it?

SAM: Brilliant. Yeah, I think it's a great present.

TEDDY: It's the Jewish – it's the Jewish stuff.

RACHEL: Right, okay, that's –

TEDDY: Rather than the Scottish stuff.

CATHY: That's awful.

TEDDY: Why do you think that's awful?

RACHEL: I think that's great.

CATHY: I just think that's the worst thing you could ever give anyone, isn't it?

SAM: Teddy, if you're ever getting a present for Cath, don't get her the smoked salmon.

TEDDY: No, I'd be absolutely delighted. I'd be so – I'd be so happy if someone bought me – if someone bought me –

CATHY: I would be furious.

RACHEL: Yeah, I would be very happy. I apologise on behalf of my sister, Teddy.

TEDDY: Yeah, it's a crazy reaction.

RACHEL: Um, absolutely. Doesn't make any sense. So –

CATHY: Rachel's just bought me a neck massager with no plug.

RACHEL: Yeah. I have, actually. That's – yeah – no, well it's not really –

TEDDY: Well if you're in a bubble together, do it – do it yourself, Rachel.

RACHEL: No, we never touch each other.

CATHY: Oh, I wouldn't touch Rachel. I wouldn't let Rachel touch me.
No.

RACHEL: No, I don't hug.

SAM: Are you not touchy?

CATHY: No, no.

RACHEL: No.

CATHY: Or say I love you. No. Never. Do you two hug?

TEDDY: Yeah.

SAM: Oh. Oh, yeah, we're quite tactile. I mean not in – not in, um –

CATHY: Oh, that's gorgeous.

SAM: Yeah, it is gorgeous. Everything we do, we –

RACHEL: That's –

CATHY: I love that.

SAM: In fact we touch each other inappropriately.

TEDDY: No.

CATHY: Oh, I love that.

TEDDY: No, we – no, Sam. No.

RACHEL: I – I mean and no matter how much we talk about this in the podcasts, we'll never – yeah.

CATHY: No, hold on. They're talking about touching each other inappropriately. Shut up.

TEDDY: Not each other. Not each other.

SAM: It's not each other, actually. It's one-way inappropriate touching.

TEDDY: It's unrequited.

CATHY: Oh. Oh, sorry. Which one touches which?

RACHEL: I could've guessed. Which one do you think, Cath? Sam touches Teddy.

SAM: Um, but actually, you know, during, uh, during this whole horrible year and a – year of lockdown and social distancing, the lack of physical contact with my brother, my mum, my dad has been one of the hardest things. Because yeah, we are – we are quite a touchy feely family.

CATHY: Oh, that's lovely.

RACHEL: That's lovely, yeah.

CATHY: Oh, that makes me want to cry.

SAM: And I miss – I miss hugging him.

TEDDY: Yeah.

SAM: I miss, you know, nestling my nose in the nape of his neck.

TEDDY: Mhm. Mhm.

RACHEL: Mhm.

TEDDY: And my neck – my neck misses your nose. Do you not like smoked salmon? Is that why you –

CATHY: No. You know what? No, I don't, actually.

SAM: Oh, well that's fundamental.

CATHY: No, I don't dislike it. I just would be so bored by a food present. I had a horrific eating disorder and I think it's affected my view of food.

RACHEL: Yeah.

TEDDY: Right. I – I guess it would, yeah.

CATHY: So I just – yeah it does, just like –

SAM: So what's a good – what's a good present for Cath?

RACHEL: Nothing. She's – she's never happy with anything.

CATHY: I don't like stuff.

RACHEL: Yeah, uh, you got –

CATHY: I'm basically a hippie. I just don't like stuff.

RACHEL: Your partner – Frank got you –

CATHY: Music. Music.

RACHEL: Yeah, but Frank got you Apple music or whatever for Christmas and she was furious. She was absolutely livid.

TEDDY: Oh.

RACHEL: She was like, 'I don't know how to work that, I don't want that, I don't want another thing on my phone.'

TEDDY: 'Don't like music.'

SAM: But it is –

CATHY: No, I love music, I don't want stuff. I don't want to have to press any buttons or deal with anything.

RACHEL: Yeah. Yeah.

SAM: You can't buy anyone music these days because there's no physical CDs or tapes or whatever.

CATHY: I know.

RACHEL: Yeah.

CATHY: Do you share the same music taste?

SAM: Uh, I guess. We're not really music-y people.

CATHY: Oh.

SAM: But we're – I mean we share the same comedic tastes, I would say.

CATHY: Okay.

SAM: Um, and –

TEDDY: Yeah, I'm quite immature when it comes to music.

SAM: Are you going to ask me what –

CATHY: Oh.

TEDDY: He wants the present question, Sam.

SAM: Are you going to ask me what the last – yeah, I want the present question.

RACHEL: Yes. Yes. Sam –

TEDDY: Is it you – are you hosting this podcast? Are you now hosting this podcast?

RACHEL: No, but well – well –

CATHY: Brilliant.

TEDDY: Why don't you – why don't you let her decide when she wants to ask you a question?

SAM: Alright, this is what happens. I just tend to try and – I'm a control freak, aren't I?

RACHEL: You can't – you can't help it. Yeah.

TEDDY: Yeah.

SAM: Go on, go on. Ask the question, Rach.

RACHEL: Sam, what was the – what was the last – Sam, what was the last present you bought for Teddy?

SAM: Poo drops.

TEDDY: Very good.

RACHEL: What are they?

SAM: Um, so there's this company called Aesops that make, um, uh, you – it's like a pipette thing, like a little squeezey thing. It's in a bottle and you take a few drops and after you've had a, what they would probably call on the package a bowel movement, um, you flush it, and then you take, uh, some – these drops and you put it in the water, and it clears the smell completely. Like better than any of these, you know, the terrible air fresheners.

CATHY: Oh, you two.

TEDDY: They're magical.

SAM: It's amazing.

TEDDY: They're great.

SAM: It gets – it actually turns into a nice smell. And they've – they've solved it.

TEDDY: Yeah.

SAM: It's like solving – it's like finding the cure for cancer.

TEDDY: You want to be – you want to hang out in the toilet after that. You want to stay for a while.

CATHY: What people do – but what people do with that is they light a match and the sulphur neutralises the smell, apparently.

TEDDY: Yeah.

SAM: Yeah.

CATHY: But you do smell like you've – you've set fire to the toilet.

SAM: Yeah, completely.

TEDDY: That works well, but it's quite a flavour to have in the air, that sort of smell of a match. Whereas this is more – this is a more pleasant thing. It's really good.

CATHY: It is.

SAM: Yeah, it's great.

RACHEL: Who's the most competitive?

SAM: Me.

TEDDY: We're both pretty competitive.

SAM: I'm more competitive.

RACHEL: Sam, you said you. Okay.

SAM: I think as an older brother – I think that thing of having a – a younger brother come along and try and sort of steal your limelight a little bit must've had some sort of effect, that Teddy – you can't remember it.

TEDDY: Yeah. And I don't – I wouldn't view it as a theft, either.

RACHEL: Um –

CATHY: Who's the happiest?

TEDDY: Oh, how do we know?

SAM: I think Teddy is – you know, the – we – one of the great elements of our partnership is that we take it in turns to be the optimistic one. So whenever I'm feeling down about something, lo and behold Teddy's got a positive spin on it and can sort of pep me up and give me a – give me a talking to and tell me why things are actually okay. And when he's feeling down about something, I can usually get positive. Um, so we have – yeah.

RACHEL: We'd be the same.

SAM: So we're – we're both – I think naturally I'm – I'm definitely an optimist, but I do have my moments where I'm feeling down and then lo and behold, Teddy's the optimist.

TEDDY: Yeah, I think I have to try harder at the optimism. I think I have to work at it a bit more. Because I know also Sam – something Sam needs, so, uh, that's probably why I'm doing it. It's not coming – I don't think it comes that naturally. That makes it a bit sound like I'm pretending, Sam. Maybe I am.

CATHY: Um, which –

TEDDY: Don't know.

CATHY: Who, uh, what is the trait you would most like from the other?

SAM: Uh, the cooking. He's a – he's a gifted chef.

CATHY: Really?

SAM: Yeah. He's a –

CATHY: You guys love food.

SAM: Oh, but you don't – yeah, we do. We do.

TEDDY: Is it both of you that are not into food?

SAM: He's like – he's not a –

CATHY: No, she likes – Rachel can't be –

RACHEL: No, I like food, yeah. Absolutely.

CATHY: You can't be bothered, though.

RACHEL: No, I – yeah. If it's cooked for me, though, definitely.

CATHY: She can't cook.

RACHEL: I can't cook. I took a cookery course. It didn't change my life at all.

SAM: Oh.

RACHEL: But I love eating. So, yeah.

SAM: Teddy's not, um, he's not a recipe chef. He's not a guy who follows a recipe. He's a guy who will invent a recipe. He will think of flavour combinations. And going to his house is like going to a – a proper great restaurant, so – and that's – that's definitely a talent that he's got that I don't have.

TEDDY: I would say, um, Sam's ability to sort of think on his feet. And react quickly and smartly to, uh, to – to situations is what I would – I would take from his, uh, kit.

RACHEL: Is there anything you want to say to each other that you've never said before? Teddy first, please.

TEDDY: God, I mean haven't we done enough therapy on this podcast?

CATHY: Nope, keep going.

TEDDY: This is just out of control at this point.

RACHEL: You don't – you really don't have to.

SAM: Come on, say something to me.

RACHEL: Yeah. Is it – do you feel like you're back in the room with the therapist?

TEDDY: Yeah, but I feel like this time I'm meant to be there. And that's – that's much worse. I much prefer – I prefer to be an observer of the therapy. I don't want to have the therapy.

CATHY: Absolutely. Absolutely.

SAM: I didn't say – I mean that – that first therapy story was actually only supposed to be a stepping stone to say that we actually then went to therapy, to couples therapy, uh, a few years ago. When we were grown-ups working together. And we'd hit one of these flashpoints where we thought it would be a healthy – in fact it wasn't – I think it – we just thought it would be a healthy thing to do, so we went to a couple's therapist. So Teddy's been there before.

CATHY: That's brilliant.

SAM: Yeah, I – yeah.

RACHEL: Right, yeah.

CATHY: We could do that.

SAM: We'd do it again.

RACHEL: Yeah. I think that's – yeah.

SAM: I mean I've recommended it to other people who work together, uh, since.

CATHY: That is a great idea.

RACHEL: That is a great idea if we hit – yeah, if we hit one.

CATHY: And we'll do it for the podcast, obviously.

SAM: Yeah.

RACHEL: What – on – on – yeah.

SAM: Yeah, Oh yeah. But yeah.

CATHY: Um, sorry Teddy.

SAM: Go on, Ted.

CATHY: Is there anything? Yeah, he's struggling.

TEDDY: I'm – I'm struggling to think of something that I've never said to Sam before. I think I've said all the things over the years. Um, that's a bit of a cop-out. Sam, why don't you go first?

CATHY: Yeah, Sam, you say yours and then let Teddy think.

SAM: Um, Teddy, if I was to be in some sort of tragic accident where I was basically a like dribbling vegetable and my family weren't – my – my wife wasn't around to take me in, and it was my request that

you look after me in your house and feed me and take care of my – do my personal care, would you do that for me?

TEDDY: Um, I've got a few questions about the job. Um, does, um –

SAM: No, it's just a yes or no. It's a yes or no.

TEDDY: It was – the – the invitation wasn't to say – it – it wasn't to ask a question. It was to say a thing to me that you've never said before. So you've – you've gone on your own path with this.

CATHY: Exactly.

TEDDY: But now that you have turned it into a question. I do – I do have a few things to – some queries. So where's Abigail in this scenario? Why is she not available to, as you say, take you in?

SAM: Okay, go on. Dead. Dead.

TEDDY: She's dead as – she's dead.

SAM: Dead. Dead. She's dead.

TEDDY: She's dead so will I wipe your bum? Those – those - I am allowed to –

SAM: Yeah, and feed me with a different hand.

TEDDY: Am I – am I allowed to provide, you know, provide that it gets done?

SAM: No.

TEDDY: Or is it very important to you that I personally wipe your bum?

SAM: No, that's the point. That's the point. Not outsourcing it, you're not getting a carer and you're not putting me into some sort of

home. You're doing it yourself. That's what I want to know. And with love.

TEDDY: Why – why can't – why can't – of course with love. But why – that goes without saying. Why – why can't the carer come and live with us all? And we can all be lovingly wiping –

SAM: No, because that's not – I don't – I –

CATHY: He doesn't want to do it, Sam.

RACHEL: He doesn't want to do it.

CATHY: Sam, he doesn't want to do it.

RACHEL: I think you've got your answer.

SAM: I don't want to know that you're going to outs-ass it. Outs-ass.

RACHEL: You're panicking.

SAM: I don't want my – my ass-wiping to be outs-assed. I want it – I want you to do it.

TEDDY: Okay, it's not a no. It's not a no. But I do think we should talk about it more. And I want to – because I want to get this right.

SAM: Alright. Fair. Yeah, okay.

TEDDY: Yeah, let's talk about it.

CATHY: Oh, you're making him feel terrible.

RACHEL: Yeah, okay. There's your next therapy session.

TEDDY: Let's talk about it off-air. Um –

CATHY: So Teddy, did you think of anything in that time? That's why he was stretching that out.

TEDDY: No, I should think about it.

CATHY: Can't think of anything?

TEDDY: All I was thinking about was wiping my brother's bum.

CATHY: I was – knew you were going to say that.

SAM: You know what – you know what this is like? Is when we went – we – we won some award – was it at the – when we won the –

TEDDY: Oh, don't tell this story. Don't tell the story.

SAM: The RTS award, and we won it for 'Plebs.'

TEDDY: It's such – you don't need to do this.

SAM: And, uh, I made a speech, uh, an acceptance speech on the podium. It was in front of, you know, all of – the whole industry. And then I said, 'oh, and Ted, so do you have anything to add?' And he leant – leans into the microphone and just goes, 'not really, no.'

TEDDY: I thought it was funny. I thought it was – I thought it was going to be funny. It didn't quite work.

CATHY: It was.

TEDDY: I think actually – I thought –

SAM: No, you didn't think it was going to be funny.

TEDDY: Yes I did.

SAM: 'Not really, no.'

TEDDY: Yeah, I mean, I thought it was funny. And –

SAM: So what – what have you got to say to me, Ted?

CATHY: Come on, Ted. We want something really dramatic and –

SAM: Got anything to add? 'Not really, no.'

CATHY: You know?

RACHEL: I've –

TEDDY: Not really, no.

SAM: Say it to me.

CATHY: Are you two going to have a huge row after this?

SAM: No.

TEDDY: No, no. I don't think so.

RACHEL: I think let's – I think we're bullying Teddy. I think he should be left alone now.

CATHY: Oh yeah, we're bullying Teddy. Exactly.

RACHEL: I know how it feels.

TEDDY: Oh, no, I – I don't feel like I'm getting bullied by the Masons.

RACHEL: No, but Sam – Sam's going tell you what to say in a minute, so I think we need to stop.

TEDDY: But – but Sam's twisted – Sam's twisted the RTS, um, awards. Leaning into the microphone into something that it wasn't. This is outrageous. I thought it was funny.

SAM: Just tell me – just tell me you love me. Tell me you love me.

CATHY: I think it was a beautiful moment.

TEDDY: Sam, well I was going to. I was actually going to say that.

SAM: 'I was going – that's exactly – but I'm not now. Now I'm not saying it. That's exactly what I'm going to say.'

CATHY: Do it.

TEDDY: You've slightly – you've slightly ruined the moment.

CATHY: Do it.

TEDDY: I love you, Sam.

CATHY: Aw. Go on, Sam. Say it back.

SAM: I love you.

TEDDY: No, he's done his thing.

SAM: I would – no, I would love you –

TEDDY: It was about bum wiping.

SAM: I would love you to wipe my bum.

TEDDY: Unbelievable.

RACHEL: Perfect.

[Flute sounds]

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.