

## Welcome To Spooktown – Sikisa

[Spooky music]

ED EASTON: Ah! You are a ghost! Ah!

[Footsteps]

ED: [singing] deedababa deebabadadum deedadadadum –

KATH HUGHES: Nice stroll.

ED: One foot in front of the other, Kath. That's all it is. Bit bored of Spooktown at the moment.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Glad we're popping out to the woods.

KATH: Yeah. Nice to have a little explore, isn't it?

ED: How many people do you think, um, like agreed that are listening? 'Bored of Spooktown at the moment.' 'Ugh, yeah. Yeah yeah yeah.'

KATH: 'Yeah yeah yeah.'

ED: Badabada. Oof. Oof.

KATH: Oh boy, yeah yeah yeah. Can definitely relate to that.

ED: Oh. Say. Say.

[crashing, cats screeching]

KATH: That's a lot of cats. Lot of cats around here.

ED: That has – that cat that we saw and heard, has tipped me into triple figures of cat seeings today.

KATH: Has it really?

ED: Yes.

KATH: Gosh.

ED: That's my 100<sup>th</sup> cat.

KATH: Oh, bloody hell. That's quite an occasion, that.

ED: Just today. Not over – not of all time.

KATH: Oh, no, yeah. I get it. I get it.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: I'd be with you. I've seen them as well, but I just wasn't –

ED: Weren't counting.

KATH: You know, didn't want to make it about me. It's about you, that's your thing.

ED: Yeah, thank you.

KATH: You're welcome. You're welcome. I just want you to have your moment, you know?

ED: 100<sup>th</sup> cat. Oh shit. Have you had any – have you had any nightmares this week?

KATH: Yeah, of course. Of course.

ED: Au natural.

KATH: I had one where, um, me and you were in a shop.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: And you just kept telling me, 'do not go down the bean aisle.'

ED: Yeah, don't.

KATH: Which is presumably an aisle exclusively for beans.

ED: Mhm.

KATH: But like baked beans, not all sorts of beans.

ED: Yes. Spaghetti's in there usually as well.

KATH: Oh really?

ED: Yeah. It's tinned stuff really, but yeah, beans.

KATH: Anyway, you're telling me, 'don't go down there.' Obviously I'm going to be like, 'right, well what's going on in the bean aisle?' I go down the bean aisle, and we've been reviewed and this is reviews. We've been reviewed by the 'Times' presumably.

ED: Fucking cunts.

KATH: Three stars. So, you know, have an opinion. Give it –

ED: Fucking hell.

KATH: Five or one.

ED: Yeah. Five or one.

KATH: Five or one, you know what I mean? Have an opinion.

ED: Thumbs up or thumbs down.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: That's all it should be.

KATH: Yeah. But yeah, and I was just really like, 'oh god, I wish I hadn't gone down the bean aisle and seen this.'

ED: What is it we always used to say? Five stars is correct. Four stars is like come on, just give us the fucking five stars, you're nearly there.

Three stars is like you don't have a thought or opinion, you've just gone like 'maybe'.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: That's what three is. Three is maybe.

KATH: Yeah. Yeah, it's maybe. Yeah.

ED: One is you don't fucking know what you're talking about, grow up. One – one star? You think it's one star? You haven't a thought in your head. Two is like didn't like it but for a reason. And that's the worst. Two's the worst. Two's the worst rating you can get. Two's way worse than one.

KATH: Yeah, two's the worst. Yeah.

ED: Two's like didn't like it, and here's why.

KATH: And here's why, yeah.

ED: And the – like –

KATH: Whereas one is –

ED: One's like you don't know what you're fucking on about.

KATH: Yeah yeah yeah.

ED: Two is, 'I didn't like it but here's the redeeming – something's redeemable about it.' Hate it. Hate a two.

KATH: Like – brutal. Brutal. How about you, any nightmares?

ED: Um, shit. Have I had any nightmares this week? Or has my life been utterly perfect? I'm sure I can dig something up. Pulled down a bunch of plasterboard with damp behind it. I got a cough from that.

KATH: That has turned me sick, I'll be honest.

ED: Yeah, the – the plasterboard was so wet. Like damp and wet. That it just like mushed in your hands.

KATH: Oh god.

ED: It just like put a pulp –

KATH: Oh.

ED: That was – so that was a bit of a nightmare, yeah. It's sort of joyous hammering down a wall, but then like clumping it down with my stupid paws, just like – and it – ugh, yeah, it was horrible.

KATH: Yeah. Awful.

ED: But used it to fill in some potholes.

KATH: Oh, well that's got a happy ending.

ED: Yeah. I know how to weave a yarn, Kath.

KATH: Yeah. It's a nice little happily ever after at the end of that. Lovely. Lovely, lovely. Is that – is that who I think it is? Is that Sikisa?

ED: Oh, I thought you were talking about me. Uh, yes, that is. Yeah, look.

KATH: Is it? Say hello?

[Spooky music]

ED: Oh, Sikisa! Hello.

KATH: Hello.

SIKISA: What's up? Hey. What are you doing around here? What's going on?

ED: Hey.

KATH: Oh –

ED: Uh, we popped here to have a look at the old boarding school.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: And burnt woods.

SIKISA: Yeah, um, I don't know if you are welcome, Edward. No offense, because it's an all girls' school. But um –

ED: Oh shit.

KATH: But yeah, I don't – I tried to – no, I did –

ED: I didn't know.

KATH: No, I flagged with you and you were like, 'well everything's for boys.' So –

ED: What I mean is I didn't – I didn't know before you told me. Is what I meant, sorry.

KATH: Oh, got you. Got you. Yeah, that's a fact. That's fine, yeah.

ED: I didn't know prior to finding out.

KATH: Yeah, okay.

SIKISA: Well – well you're here now, so –

ED: And then I thought – I've got, you know, I've got – I've got sort of longish hair –

KATH: Yeah.

ED: In fact, uh, I once had – I used to have hair down to my sort of – not waist, but I'd say chest. I had very long curly hair. And I once accidentally went into the women's toilets. And I just let my hair down and sort of scuttled out and no one noticed.

SIKISA: Well it is quite common, especially with the pandemic. Like I, um, I did see – I saw someone I haven't seen for ages on a Zoom and I was – I thought it was, uh, my friend's mother. Turns out it was her boyfriend, who I haven't seen, uh, in a year. And I was like, 'mate, you need to get your hair cut. Your hair is so long.'

ED: You look like someone's mum.

SIKISA: But we can turn you – we can turn you into a girl. We can, obviously, pronouns are very, uh, a very hot topic at the moment. We can get you drag race up –

ED: Yeah, great. Yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: Like get you some makeup. Make you look very feminine and all that.

ED: I'd love that.

KATH: Exciting.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: That would be lovely, Ed.

SIKISA: What kind of – what kind of length skirt would you like? Like knee length? Would you like a short one? Maxi?

ED: If we're going – if we're going all in, let's go all in. Let's –

SIKISA: Like you do have good legs.

ED: Thank you so much. Thank you very much. I do love walking. Let's go short.

SIKISA: Let's go short.

ED: Let's go short.

KATH: A mini skirt, okay.

SIKISA: Mini skirt. Mini skirt. Obviously you're welcome anyway, so – because you're a woman, so you're –

KATH: Thank you. I'm going to wear trousers, though, if that's okay.

SIKISA: That's perfectly fine.

KATH: Trousers and a shirt, yeah.

SIKISA: Yeah, we're all very, um, at school –

ED: Nice.

SIKISA: Very open to trousers. So please do.

KATH: Great. Great.

SIKISA: Like basically just be like, 'I'm an independent strong woman.' Yeah.

KATH: Yeah. I can wear trousers.

SIKISA: 'I'm going to wear some trousers.' Yeah.

ED: Nice. Wear some fucking trousers.

KATH: And he's an independent strong man and he can wear a mini skirt. Yeah.

SIKISA: Yeah, exactly. Damn. Damn right. Damn right.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: We're all independent and strong, Kath.

KATH: We're all independent and strong.

ED: We're all independent and strong.

[Spooky music]

[Music playing, singing 'here to judge. Here to judge.']

PRIYA HALL: Hello.

ROBIN MORGAN: Hi!

LEILA NAVABI: Hey, Priya!

PRIYA: [laughs] Okay, I see how it is.

[All laugh]

PRIYA: Here to Judge is the new weekly podcast from Little Wander, where we dismantle predicaments posted online.

LEILA: Featuring fruity dilemmas from Am I The Asshole on Reddit.

ROBIN: To Am I Being Unreasonable quandaries on Mumsnet.

PRIYA: Join me, Priya Hall.

ROBIN: Me, Robin Morgan.

LEILA: And me, Leila Navabi. Subscribe on Apple –

ROBIN: Apple.

LEILA: Spotify –

ROBIN: Spotify.

LEILA: Or wherever you get your podcasts.

ROBIN: Wherever.

LEILA: Go on. Give me –

ROBIN: I was just being like your hype man.

LEILA: Beatbox a bit.

ROBIN: [beatboxes]

LEILA: New episode every Friday. There must be something we can use. [laughs]

[Spooky music]

ED: I have a question for you.

SIKISA: Yes.

ED: If I may? How was your journey here?

SIKISA: Oh, so, um, the journey was – here was quite interesting. So – so it's a boarding school, so normally I would stay here like obviously during semester and stuff like that because –

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: But I have not been here for ten years.

ED: Right.

SIKISA: So this is – this is –

ED: Oh, so you went here? Okay.

SIKISA: Yeah, this is my previous school, um, that I stayed –

KATH: Okay.

SIKISA: Yeah, it was – it was fun. It was weird being at an all girls' school, but yeah, it was interesting. But now I just get the bus here because it's only like an hour and a half journey. And I like the bus. I don't like really trains or tubes and stuff like that. So I just get the bus here. So it's nice to look out the windows. Obviously as soon as I

got past like a certain point, coming towards Spooktown's burnt woods, I started to get dark. So a bit mucky.

ED: Yeah, yeah.

SIKISA: So I knew that I was in the right direction. So –

KATH: Yeah, yeah, it's a good signpost, that, isn't it? Like, 'oh, yeah, we're near.'

ED: Great.

SIKISA: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: Yeah, 'we're near.' When there's signs like 'turn around now'.

KATH: Yeah yeah yeah. 'Get out.'

SIKISA: Those kinds of things. That was a bit like yeah, we're – yeah, we're going to the right place.

ED: Yeah, I get – I like a train. I don't like a – a tube if I think too much about how underground it is. If I remember that I'm underground, I – I get – I hate it.

SIKISA: But that's the whole purpose of the underground tube.

KATH: Yeah, it's called the underground, isn't it? Yeah.

ED: Yeah, yeah, you can see my problem.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Yeah, you can see where – where I struggle. Same with caves.

SIKISA: Yeah, I can.

SIKISA: However, some tubes are not underground. Some of them are overground.

KATH: God, we're all being lied to.

SIKISA: Exactly.

ED: Oh my god. Oh my god. Great, so you got the bus here and it was fine. Lovely. Thank you for that. Um, my second question is how many ghosts have you seen this week?

SIKISA: This week? Well this week I've kind of been like enjoying the sun. So I've not really –

ED: Right, yes.

SIKISA: Worried about the ghosts at the moment.

KATH: So you've not been sort of keeping an eye out.

SIKISA: No, I've not been keeping an eye out. I've just been like, you know what, you do your thing, I'll do my thing.

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: The sun's out. I need to enjoy it because I've been locked in the house for like ages.

ED: Nice.

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: So like I've been like, 'sun, yay.' And I'm sure like the ghosts are like, 'you know what, I'm going to give them their moment. Because the sun hasn't been out for a while.' Because the week before I saw like two, so –

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Right. And then none – but none this week.

KATH: So they – right, so they are mindful the weather, which is nice.

SIKISA: Yeah, they – they don't like – with me the ghosts only really come out at like wintertime. I think that's when they know –

KATH: Okay.

SIKISA: That they can have a chat with me.

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: That they can communicate with me. That we can have a little gossip, a little chin wag.

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: In the summer they really just hibernate. Because they know that I need my like summertime moment.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Yeah. Yeah.

SIKISA: I need to get my like life on. So they appreciate that.

ED: I feel like they're – they're a bit like, um, a laptop. In that they're – they're quite hard to see in direct sunlight.

SIKISA: Exactly, so I think they're –

ED: I think it's quite hard to see them. So –

SIKISA: But when I used to work in a pub, the ghosts were always around. So it was cool.

ED: Nice.

SIKISA: It was nice to have something to like keep me occupied when I was closing up by myself. So, you know.

KATH: Yeah. Yeah, because then you're not really by yourself then, are you? You know, someone to chat to.

SIKISA: Exactly. Exactly. When you're just closing up, just like, 'hey. Hey Sarah, what are you doing today?'

ED: Oh, lovely.

KATH: Oh, so they were regulars? That's nice.

SIKISA: Oh yeah yeah. Regulars, yeah.

KATH: Yeah, nice.

SIKISA: It was normally just one ghost, but just always was there. Because the ghost used to live in the attic, so yeah.

KATH: Just – oh, right. So right. So Sarah would just nip down when you were sort of cashing up.

SIKISA: Yeah, exactly.

ED: I hope there's not somebody called Sarah listening to this being like, 'it's a real person. That wasn't – that wasn't a ghost. What the fuck?'

SIKISA: Well I named her Sarah. I don't know if Sarah's her real name.

KATH: Oh, okay.

[Spooky music]

ED: Lovely answer, thank you very much. Excuse that – I'm a big fan.

SIKISA: You're welcome.

ED: Um, my last – my last question and then Kath's got a question –

SIKISA: Oh you are all full of questions, mate.

ED: Yes. Yeah. You're getting both barrels after that fucking – um, what's – what is the spookiest thing that's ever happened to you, please?

SIKISA: The spookiest thing that ever happened to me? I think – believing that a dress was blue and it actually was green.

ED: Yeah, yeah. That is the correct answer.

KATH: Yeah. Finally someone's answered that correctly. Finally.

SIKISA: Yeah. It's not even my story that's – yeah, it's not – my story's not –

ED: We can stop.

SIKISA: Even the spookiest thing. It's the fact that, why is something that I believe is blue actually green.

KATH: But is it actually green?

SIKISA: That's the question. If you see it –

KATH: If I believe it's blue, then is it not blue?

SIKISA: Yeah.

KATH: Or is it just like, 'oh, no, I don't – I'm seeing blue when it's actually green.'

SIKISA: Am I colourblind? Like I don't know.

KATH: But just for one dress.

ED: Is this – is this about this dress that on the Instagram?

SIKISA: No, it was a different dress. It was actually a real dress in person.

ED: Oh.

SIKISA: I bought the dress and I was like, 'oh, it's a blue dress.' And everyone's like, 'no, it's green.' I was like, 'no, it's blue.' They were like, 'no, it's green.' The same with my car, actually.

ED: Oh.

SIKISA: I think my car is blue, but it is actually marked down as purple. And I'm like, 'no, it's blue.' And people are like, 'no, it's purple.'

KATH: Okay.

ED: My – my, uh, mother had one of her – a car that was – I thought was blue and everyone else said it was green.

SIKISA: Ah.

ED: I think there's a colour that – that is both.

KATH: There must be. Maybe it's like a turquoise that sort of sways between blue and green.

SIKISA: Maybe.

ED: It's not turquoise, though.

KATH: No, it's another thing.

ED: It's definitely blue. It's like definitely blue, but everyone else is like, 'that's green.' I know exactly what you're talking about. I think another colour. Is it kind of sparkly?

SIKISA: I wouldn't say it's sparkly, but it does shine in light.

ED: I think – I think I know the colour you're talking about. I think we've just cracked into something next level.

KATH: Yeah. If anyone listening knows what the name of that colour is –

SIKISA: Let me know.

KATH: How do we – how does someone contact us to let us know? Because I'm really intrigued.

SIKISA: I mean, does Spooktown not have a – have a contact number? Like the emergency advice line?

ED: Um, I think if you just scream it into your pillow at night –

KATH: Yeah.

ED: It'll get to us.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Or Twitter.

SIKISA: Okay, fair enough. Yeah. Twitter.

ED: Twitter's good. That's probably – that's probably the best one.

SIKISA: Hashtag Spooktown.

KATH: Yeah. But either or, either or.

ED: Kath, you have a question? And then we'll get – we'll get on with the story?

KATH: Yes, okay. Okay, so the Blair witch as in the – the witch. The Blair Witch Project, as in the research, so like VHS's, paperwork. Or the Blair's bitch, which would be, of course, the Blair's female family dog.

SIKISA: Oh.

KATH: Shag, marry, kill.

SIKISA: Wow, okay.

ED: There's a lot to unpack there.

SIKISA: How can you marry – what was it?

[All laugh]

ED: Yeah. Fair question.

KATH: Straight in with the – the logistics of it. How could you marry –

ED: What? What's this? Um –

KATH: So the Blair Witch, as in the witch.

SIKISA: Yeah.

ED: Yeah. From the Blair Witch Project.

KATH: The Blair Witch Project, which would be the research.

ED: The research.

SIKISA: Yeah.

KATH: Or – or the Blair's bitch.

ED: The Blair's bitch.

KATH: Which would be the – Tony and Cherie's family dog that is a female.

ED: Tony and Cherie's.

SIKISA: Okay.

ED: Kath has genuinely researched this. Apparently it's a dachshund.

KATH: Dachshund, apparently.

SIKISA: Okay.

ED: If that swings it either way.

SIKISA: Um, I want to know how can you shag, marry, kill research?

KATH: Um well if you –

SIKISA: Is it the researcher or is it research?

KATH: The research.

ED: No no no, it's the material.

KATH: You could destroy it if you want to kill it. You could destroy the  
–burn it all. Um –

SIKISA: Well can – I can't marry it. Not by law.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: If you wanted to –

ED: Are you –

KATH: I think there's – you could travel somewhere and do it.

ED: You – you'd find a ship's captain that could do it.

SIKISA: And I don't – I don't really want to shag paper.

KATH: Hey, that's okay. You don't have to do that. You could – you  
could –

ED: That's fair. You don't have to.

KATH: You can shag another thing.

ED: You could do one of the other two, yeah.

SIKISA: If I can replace the Blair Witch Project research with like a  
man –

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: I would shag it.

ED: Just the – just the normal man.

KATH: Well –

ED: If I could just replace them all with men –

SIKISA: As long as the – as long as the man's got tattoos and a beard, then we're winning. Um –

KATH: Okay.

SIKISA: Well we never – we never see the Blair Witch, so – we never ever see the Blair Witch.

ED: Yeah. Could be.

SIKISA: See I always assume witches are female, and I've got nothing against like women because they are lovely, um, I just – I just couldn't marry a witch full time.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: But I might – oh actually, no. okay, right. So I will kill the dog.

KATH: Okay. We've got like an ancient monster. You've got to kill the dachshund.

SIKISA: Okay, this is – yeah, we're going to kill the dog. I'm going to kill the dog because, um, I don't want the vet bills, um, mainly.

KATH: Okay, okay, okay. Just a money thing.

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: I don't want the vet bills. Like – like someone quoted me the other day, um, about how they spent £2000 on their cat. And I was like kill the cat. I was like –

ED: Yeah yeah yeah.

SIKISA: I was like that's rent for two months. Like what are you doing? I'm so going to get so much hate from hate haters. The the cat lovers, they're going to hate me. I'm so sorry. Um. But logically, I'm thinking logically.

KATH: Okay. Yeah yeah yeah.

SIKISA: The limited options I was given. So I'll kill the dog.

KATH: Yeah, that's fair, they are limited options.

SIKISA: I will – I will shag the project if project is replaced by a man with tattoos and a beard.

KATH: Okay.

SIKISA: And then I will –

KATH: Okay.

ED: It's weird that you – it's weird that you didn't do that with the dog.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Like replace the dog with like a houseplant. 'Definitely kill the dog. I want to see that dog dead.'

SIKISA: And then –

ED: Okay, so the research is replaced by somebody you would want to shag.

SIKISA: Yeah, with tattoos and a beard. Tattoos and beard.

ED: Okay. With tattoos and beard. Very specific, yeah.

SIKISA: And, um, I will marry the witch because the witch has got powers, and therefore will be able to contract her powers to do anything for me. Because she loves me.

ED: Transform herself into a man with tattoos and a beard.

KATH: Nice, yeah.

SIKISA: Yeah yeah yeah.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: Yeah, nice.

SIKISA: No, it's okay. I will have her – no, it's fine. I'll – I'll marry her and then have –

KATH: Yeah yeah yeah.

SIKISA: The shag on the side. Yeah.

KATH: Okay.

ED: Okay. okay. Marry her first and then –

SIKISA: Yeah. Yeah.

ED: Make sure you're definitely married. And then –

SIKISA: Yeah, marry her. Because, um, to –

ED: Great.

SIKISA: I don't remember, what else? The vows of marriage. To have and to hold for richer or for poorer, till death do us part.

ED: Love it.

KATH: Another correct answer, so –

SIKISA: Thank you.

ED: Yeah, yeah. Another – another correct one.

SIKISA: Ding.

ED: The correct answer is to change the research into somebody you want to have sex with.

[Spooky music]

ED: Now we hear you have a – a spooky story.

SIKISA: Yes, I do. It's something that is dear to my heart because obviously I've been to this school. And I would like to just emphasise that – how this scarred me to this day.

ED: Okay, okay.

SIKISA: Because of how spooky it was.

KATH: Oh, okay.

SIKISA: It's going to get deep. It may not get funny, but it will get deep.

ED: I'm excited. So whenever you're – whenever you are ready. We are all ears.

[Sikisa clears throat]

ED: Lovely. Bit of professionalism. I like that.

SIKISA: Got to clear the throat.

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: After all the shagging I was doing.

KATH: Lot of paperwork.

SIKISA: Lot of paperwork, yeah.

[School bell rings, children yelling]

SIKISA: I hated school. My school especially. It was brown. What school is brown? Everywhere was brown. The walls, the stairs, the ceiling, even the uniforms. So brown. It wasn't even the funnest place for me to be as well. I had – I felt lucky that I was able to leave school a month before I graduated. That's because I was able to go to Barbados and live my best life on the beach. I suppose a lot of kids can relate to that. And to be honest, I wasn't particularly looking forward to my school reunion, mainly because it was an all girls' school that I went to. This boarding school, it was an all girls' school. And I wasn't in the mood to relive when our periods synched together. But it felt like it was one of those once in a lifetime events that I just had to attend.

A few months after we left, the school closed down. [door closes, wind blows] I had no idea why. I was just thankful for the fact that I just got out with three decent A-levels and I had no idea that the school was still standing. But ten years on, the bricks are still up. So must be still going ahead. But it turns out that no one has attended the school since our year. So while we're having a school reunion, it was really weird. But I'm not questioning it. I'm not a person to question things. I just live my life.

I was never considered the most popular girl in school, but I did feel like I got along with everyone. I was expecting to arrive, to try and avoid eye contact at this event, and just beeline it straight to the nearest bartender in order to purchase a large alcoholic beverage. [cocktail shaker, pouring] I just didn't – I just didn't want to engage

with anyone at the school reunion. I was only here for the bants and to see how fat people got.

However, I was shocked to see that I was the first one there.

[woman's voice, 'huh?'] I looked around and no one was around. Like where is everyone? There is no noise and everything is quiet, which is weird for an all girls' school. The invitation was for 7:30, so why is no one even here to set up? Like I checked my watch and realised that my watch had stopped, and it was stuck at 4:45. [watch ticking] which is weird, because I swear that was the time I was watching another re-run of 'Friends' on Comedy Central whilst I was doing my makeup. I look up and as I stood at the entrance of the assembly hall I noticed that a black cat was looking directly at me. [snoring] I go to grab my phone and realise it's switched off, but it won't switch back on. I'm trying my hardest to see what's happening, but it's not switching on. I'm getting frustrated because my phone needs to switch on. [woman groaning]

I look up again and the cat is still staring at me. [snoring] I decide to go to the reception area [bell dings] to see if there's – they have a charger. Because obviously it's a school, they're going to have a charger. And to see if there's a sign-in sheet at least, to see if anyone else has signed in. if anyone else is here. Because I'm a bit concerned that I'm the only one here. I haven't turned up early, I'm just here. But where is everyone else? I'm just a bit worried, basically. I feel like I entered the wrong school and I've envisioned I used to go here. But I can't have. There was some memories that came out of this boarding school.

I walked into reception and see Samantha Brooks sitting there on her phone. [typing] She was always so beautiful, but equally she was always quiet. She was also a bit socially awkward and very – but a

very smart student. We had a couple of classes together including drama. She was an incredible actress, and acting seemed to make her come out of her shell. But she was sitting there companionless and honestly looking out of place.

I say, 'hi, how are you doing?' I pretend I'm excited to see her, because that's what you do. And we immediately engaged in small talk. Samantha shared that, uh, she had recently moved into a new place outside of town. I think it's called Richmond. I don't know. But she says it's nice, along with some nice back roads. There's hardly any crime. And across the road from a chicken farm. [chickens squawking] Good for her. I acted like I was familiar with the location. But truth is, I have never been. Apparently there's loads of deer. Don't know anything about it. That's when she suggested that we should go and have a walk around the school and reminisce about our school life while we waited for everyone else to arrive. I agreed, because frankly it's not like there was much else to do. Like I'm not just going to sit in the reception area with Samantha. Like she seems nice, but nah.

When we left the reception area, I completely forgot to charge my phone as I was distracted by Samantha. And also this damn black cat is still sitting there staring. [snoring] So I hissed at it. [hissing] Not that I don't like cats, I just don't like cats with an attitude. We continued to converse, talking about music, school memories, work, and our ambitions for the future. We walked towards the school grounds, which was where we did PE. [door creaks] And as we walked past, we reminisced about our favourite classes, our worst teachers, and the hilarious times that boys would try and break into the school grounds. The sounds of laughter and kids echoed around us as we walked past. [children yelling] One of the students actually was good as sneaking in boys back in the day. And on one occasion I

remember screaming after finding a boy in one of the toilets. [screaming] I had to pretend that I'd just saw a spider so the teachers were not suspicious.

I told Samantha that I really wanted to do a detour and to see the dorm rooms and to look if anything had changed. As we walked up the stairs, [footsteps] I noticed this black cat again. [snoring] It's starting to annoy me now, this black cat. Okay, why are you following us? What does it want? I don't have food. I am not food. Stop following me around, okay? So I decide I'm just going to ignore this black cat now.

We walk up the stairwells to all the dorm rooms, the walls still brown but mouldy. And I'm shocked. It's not even turned into a gentrified block of flats, honestly. It seems such a waste of all this space. It's not been used for ten years and I wonder why, what the story behind it is. Samantha claims she doesn't know, but after that we just remained silent as we walked down the halls. Everything looks the same except there's an eerie wind that is down the hall. [wind blowing] I find my dorm room, my old dorm room, number 213. I turn the knob to the door. The door creaks as I open it. [door creaking] And this black fucking cat is sitting in the middle of the room, just looking at me. [snoring] It's smirking at me. Now it's a stalker. I feel like I should report it to pet crime watch. It's ridiculous now. This cat. Everything looks the same and I'm shocked as I touch everything and memories come back to me.

'Can you believe,' I say to Samantha, but she's not there. She must have gone to the toilet or went to find her own room. I shared my room with my best friend Naomi, and we would stay up talking about our future and how our lives would be. I hear a creak and turn to my left but see nothing. [creaking] I imagine it's just the cat just being a

pain again. I just ignore it. I walk over to my bed and sit on it. [bed creaking] However, I'm flooded with dust. [coughing] Bad idea. I mean, I can't get dust in my hair. I just had it done. I walk towards my wardrobe and stand in front of the mirror, making sure the dust is gone. I clock that this cat is now sitting on top of the bedside table, licking itself. [licking] Well at least it's doing something than – other than staring at me, frankly. I open the wardrobe, wondering if the message that I marked on the back of it is still there. I open the double doors with both hands and something falls out. [thudding] I don't react instantly, but then I clock that there's bony hands and they're reaching out to me. [ominous sounds] I scream [screaming] and I look – as I walk backwards, I fall over and trip on my own feet. [thudding] As I zoom out with my eyes, bony hands turn into a full-fledged skeleton and I – it falls out of the wardrobe with the skull inches away from my face. [cracking] I carry on screaming and push it out of the way. [screaming] I scramble off and knock into the bedside table. [thudding] The black cat jumps off and goes and stands on the skull. [cat shrieking]

I turn to the door. I'm – I'm too freaked out and now wonder where Samantha is. I head down the corridor to see if I can find her. [footsteps] I can't remember what dorm room she lived in, but I decided instead that I'm going to try looking downstairs. Maybe she actually has gone to the toilet. They were located downstairs by the classroom. I walk down the dark stairwell and hear the wind call me name. [whispers] 'Sikisa, Sikisa.' The railing suddenly turns to ice cold [shivering]. So cold that my hands drop off – jumps off the railing. What is happening? The wind calls my name again as I turn around to look at the top of the stairs, and a shadow appears.

‘Samantha?’ I call. I start to walk up back up the stairs, and as I get closer the figure gets bigger. And I realise the shape doesn’t relate to Samantha.

‘Hello? Are you here for the school reunion?’ The figure doesn’t respond. Instead, I see something drip from them. [dripping] But I cannot make out what it is. The figure then lifts its arm and – to reveal a knife-shaped object. [knife unsheathing] It can’t be. My eyes go to focus on the figure and I realise he’s dark. No light, no smile, no colour. Just darkness apart from the spark of the knife in his – in his hands. I scream and run downstairs. [screaming, footsteps] As I get to the bottom, I slide and crumble at the bottom of the stairs. [thudding, gasping] I reach down to see what’s on the floor. It’s liquid. It’s red. It’s blood.

‘Samantha?’ I get off my ass and run down the classroom corridor. [footsteps, gasping] I look back and I can’t see the figure. It’s too dark. But I can sense them. There’s a chill down my spine that I cannot shake. The black cat is sitting in front of one of the classrooms. I take it as an omen and go in. I jump over the cat and quickly scan what is in the art department, and notice that there’s an art cupboard that is open and empty. It’s big enough to hide in it if I crouch, which is exactly what I do. I get in and crouch uncomfortably. Thank god that I’ve recently been been doing squats because this is the worst position to sit in. I close my eyes and silently pray. I hear something. Is it footsteps? I can’t make out what it is. I knew there was something in there with me. [thudding] I can feel it. It is so cold. I feel like it’s a clammy body in front of me and I just want to get out of here.

Bang, I hear. [banging] I’m freaked out now and I just want to go home. I didn’t want to be here. The last thing I want to do is have a

heart attack. The cupboard's doors fling open and Samantha is standing there.

'What are you doing in the cupboard? Aren't we too old to be playing hide and seek?'

I'm in shock. Like too much shock to – I don't even answer. Her hands are cold. Weirdly cold, but I don't question it. I haven't said anything because I don't understand what happened. Am I just imagining the figure? Did I black out?

'Come on, I think people are finally here,' Samantha says.

Oh, okay. I look down at my watch and it's – the arms are moving. It's 7:30. [watch ticking] Well my watch is working again. Okay. We start walking out of the classroom and I notice the black cat sitting in the window. I need to know what this is, black cat. Like what – what is your beef with me? I don't understand what the issue is. But at this moment in time, after everything that's just happened, I just need a stiff drink. A triple rum and coke will do. Samantha and I obviously were never really friends, and that's the honest truth, but in that moment I was thankful that she was there. As we walked down the – as we walked back to the assembly hall, I noticed that everything seems lighter. That the school isn't as brown as I thought it was anymore. Now obviously it's still disused, but it's just not as brown as I thought it was when we first got here. Okay, that's weird. But I just carry on walking down. And I'm generally enjoying our conversation that we are having. As I just forget about the figure and the knife that's obviously in the back of my head. I'll just be content, actually, to be honest, talking to Samantha for the rest of the night. But as we return back to the assembly hall, I get excited as I hear music coming out of the – of the hall. [people talking, disco music]

‘Speech,’ a classmate yelled out, followed by a chorus of laughs. There’s people here. I’m excited. Let’s have a party.

‘Come on, Samantha,’ as I yell as we approach to the entrance doors of the hall. I head in, assuming she is behind me. [door creaks]

Mr. Gerard, who was the head of maths, started talking. ‘Hi, everyone. Can I get your attention? [music stops] Thank you so much for coming. Ten years ago you were all here doing your last exams. Graduating secondary school. Crazy how fast time flies. Now some of you have kept in touch over the years, while others tonight is a great opportunity for you to reconnect. I’m grateful that you’ve all come to celebrate this reunion. However before we start this party, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that’s come, but also to remember those people whose lives have tragically – have been taken far too soon. Let us remember Samantha Brooks, who was sadly killed in her dorm Mitchell Frost escaped his mental care. It was a shocking event that the school never recovered from and she was never able to graduate. But she lives on in our spirit. Please join me in raising your glasses to toast in her memory. Thank you all again for coming. Let the reunion get on its way.’ [talking and music resumes]

I was shocked to hear Mr. Gerard’s announcement. And I quickly turn around to share a laugh with Samantha after the ghastly under – misunderstanding that he just said. That’s ridiculous, I just spent an hour with her. Or so I think. Having a conversation with her. But she was gone. [ominous sounds] And instead, black cat stood in the entrance of the assembly. The end.

[Spooky music]

[Guitar and flute sounds]

RACHEL MASON: This is I Wish I Was An Only Child, with me, Rachel Mason.

CATHY MASON: And me, Cathy Mason.

RACHEL: In this podcast, we speak to other siblings about their relationships to find out where we're going wrong.

CATHY: We've already had some amazing chats with Daisy and Charlie Cooper, Frank Skinner and his brother Keith, Athena and Seth Kugblenu –

RACHEL: And in series two, we're sitting down with Konnie and Dr. Rupa Huq, Roman Kemp and his sister Harley Moon, Rosie Jones and her brother Ollie, Selasi Gbormittah and his sister Edinam, and lots more.

CATHY: New episodes every Wednesday.

RACHEL: Listen on Apple, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[Spooky music]

[Wind blowing]

ED: Oh, yes. Thank you for telling us that story.

SIKISA: Yeah, I'm quite – reliving it is, uh, has – has caused me quite pain, I'm not going to lie.

ED: Yeah, I can imagine.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: I can imagine – coming back here and telling it as well.

SIKISA: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah, like –

ED: So you're – you're near the horror.

KATH: When did the reunion happen?

SIKISA: So it actually only happened, uh, in January 2020.

ED: Fucking hell.

KATH: Okay.

SIKISA: Yeah, so it's recent.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: And you just – right.

ED: You're in – you're in change.

SIKISA: Because, um, I graduated from school in, uh, July 2010. We didn't get our results until September – August, sorry about that, 2010. And then they had the reunion ten years later.

ED: Look at that. That's, um –

KATH: Right, okay.

ED: I – I don't think I have been to a school reunion. And I should have done.

SIKISA: They're boring, don't do it.

ED: Really?

SIKISA: Yeah, they're not fun. And obviously mine was spooky, so –

ED: Yeah, yours was spooky and you still think it's boring.

KATH: Well yeah, you – you –

SIKISA: Yeah.

KATH: Yeah, yeah. You – you met loads of ghosts.

SIKISA: Well it – it got more exciting after I had my triple rum and coke. And I was like, ‘you know what? Let’s just forget this night.’

KATH: Okay, sure.

ED: ‘Hey.’

SIKISA: ‘Samantha’s – Samantha’s still here in spirit, yeah.’

ED: I’d love to go to a school reunion. Preferably mine.

KATH: But could – could be anything, presumably.

SIKISA: I want to go to Beyonce’s school reunion.

ED: Yeah, okay. Actually yeah, no.

KATH: That would be cool, right?

ED: I’ve completely 180’ed on that. That’s great, yeah.

KATH: Yeah, can we all get in on that?

ED: Ted Danson’s. I’d like to go to Ted Danson’s, um, school reunion.

KATH: Ted Danson’s school reunion would be fun, yeah.

ED: Uh, yeah. Beyonce’s would be wild. Um, okay. So – so –

KATH: Yeah.

ED: You – so what have I got written down? Um, I’ve – I’ve written down, ‘the last thing I want to do is have a heart attack.’ Love that bit. Just – just wanted to write that down because I already –

KATH: Right. What I wanted to ask about now, your – your beef with the cat started immediately. Why did you think it was looking at you? Why did you think it was following you?

SIKISA: Because I was the only one there for ages. Did you listen to the story?

KATH: Yeah, but – yeah. But – but –

ED: Throwing down.

KATH: It could've been – it's a cat. It could've been – it could've been looking at a mouse behind you, do you know what I mean? And then when you went in the room, you were like, 'oh, it's cleaning itself. How dare it have a fucking bath or something?' You know?

ED: I do find that quite rude.

SIKISA: I mean – I mean I don't have a bath in front of people.

KATH: Yeah, fair. Fair. But –

SIKISA: And I just – I realised when saying the story that I was in – I was like, 'I've got beef with cats.'

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: I don't. I actually really love cats.

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: I like – cats are one of my favourite animals. I just think cats have an attitude. And this particular cat just had a massive attitude.

ED: Yeah. They – they do. They do. You're – you're absolutely right. Cats – actually, Kath, your cat, I don't think I've ever seen your cat have an attitude. But my cat gets a fucking stink eye on him when you don't feed him. Like a real like –

KATH: Yeah.

ED: I've not been looked like – at like that by most humans. And, yeah. And also like, I think having a bath with a mouth that smells that much of fish is very rude.

KATH: My cat – that is upsetting. Yeah.

ED: Imagine bathing in your own breath.

KATH: Yeah. Keep that to yourself. Yeah.

SIKISA: And if it was like chasing the mouse, wouldn't it eat the mouse by now? Like wouldn't it have just been like a mouse in its mouth?

KATH: Fair, okay.

SIKISA: But no, everywhere we went, the – the cat was there.

ED: I – I assume the cat is Samantha Brooks.

SIKISA: The cat doesn't speak, so –

KATH: That's –

SIKISA: It's a cat, so – I thought – I don't know for sure.

ED: I suppose, yeah, I suppose the sort of idea of the story, from my perspective as a – as a listener, is that when you – the cat's following you, then Samantha's there, and then when you turn around Samantha's gone, you find out that she died.

SIKISA: Yeah. Sad.

ED: And the – the cat is instead there. But then if the cat is Samantha, why would it bath – why would Samantha bath herself with her mouth? I feel like if Samantha was a cat –

SIKISA: What, she'd be clean?

ED: I just feel like – I feel like a human in a cat’s body would still, you know, water and soap it.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: She can be clean.

SIKISA: No, but she’s – she’s a cat. If you – if you get reincarnated as an animal –

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: You can’t suddenly start like living your human life in an animal.

ED: I guess – I guess so. Yeah, I guess so. Yeah.

SIKISA: You have to – you have to adapt yourself to you being an animal, like –

ED: Yeah, especially after ten years. Yeah.

SIKISA: Yeah, if I was –

ED: Yeah, ten years of being a cat.

KATH: Yeah. Also like how would the cat get a job? Like there’s a lot of stuff –

SIKISA: Yeah exactly.

ED: Stressing in January –

KATH: He’d have to work out –

ED: Trying to do the tax return. ‘Ah, I have to do this with my stupid paws.’

SIKISA: Yeah, if anything I want to be a cat. I don’t have to worry about all this crap.

KATH: Yeah, noted.

SIKISA: At exactly the same time.

[Spooky music]

KATH: Were the cat and Samantha ever in the same room?

ED: That's a great q.

SIKISA: When we left the reception area, the cat was still outside.

KATH: Oh, so the cat can't be Samantha.

SIKISA: But don't forget Samantha is a ghost.

KATH: So that was just a cat with attitude.

SIKISA: Yeah. Maybe it could – I don't –

KATH: But is – is she, you know, we could – we could delve into that.

SIKISA: What, whether Samantha's a ghost?

KATH: You know, is she a ghost?

SIKISA: What else could she be?

KATH: Yeah, I mean because she could –

ED: Well –

KATH: You said her hands were cold. She might have Raynaud's.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: She, uh – the – the head – the Mr. Rogers, was it? No, Mr. Gerard?

SIKISA: Mr. Gerard.

KATH: Um, Mr. Gerard, he could've made a big mistake.

ED: Yeah, yeah.

KATH: It's been ten years. He's not – he's not as young as he was. He could've made a mistake and got the name wrong.

ED: And also like –

KATH: And when you turned around to go like, 'oh, Samantha's not there. There's a cat instead.' She might have just been – nipped to the loo.

ED: Or –

KATH: And then you said you got hammered, so –

ED: If I was at a – if I was at a school reunion, hope to be one day, if I was ever at a school reunion and then the head teacher said that I was dead, I'd leave.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: I'd be like, 'I'm not fucking putting up with this horseshit.'

SIKISA: No, but wouldn't you want to say that you're not dead? Would you not want to be like, 'hey peeps, I'm not dead.'

ED: Try – now. Kath, say that again.

KATH: But you – didn't you say she's quite quiet?

ED: Oh yeah, fuck. Nice. Yeah, trying to –

KATH: Ed – Ed Easton is, uh, is dead.

ED: No, I'm not.

KATH: May we remember him forever.

SIKISA: See what I mean?

ED: I just said 'no I'm not.' Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah. Yeah. No, I would say – I would argue it.

KATH: Okay.

ED: I would argue it.

KATH: Okay, so that puts a spanner in the –

ED: But you are right, she's quiet and I'm not quiet.

KATH: She is quiet, yeah.

ED: You yelled, 'what is your beef?' At a – at a black cat.

[Sikisa laughs]

KATH: Yeah. Yeah. I wrote that down as well.

ED: Um, I know that – I know that's not a question, but I just – I think it – I think we should mention it again in this bit.

SIKISA: Well what is your beef?

ED: Yeah, yeah.

SIKISA: Do you – do you understand what I meant by saying 'what is your beef?'

ED: I do, I do. Maybe that's why I wrote down this –

SIKISA: How would you – how would you analyse me saying 'what is your beef?' I would love to hear.

ED: Um –

KATH: For – for me, it – I – I wrote that down and then I put, 'what's your beef with the cat?'

ED: Oh nice, yeah.

KATH: That's – that's what I wrote down.

SIKISA: Nice.

KATH: Because I was like this cat is just, you know, as I said earlier, what if he's just chilling? You don't – you don't know what he's thinking.

ED: What if – also what if it's like five cats and – and that cat's never seen you before. And you just yell, 'what is your beef?' at a cat.

KATH: Yeah yeah. It's like, 'what did I do?' Yeah, you hissed at a cat that was just chilling and doing nothing. It's like his – the cat's brother's like causing havoc, but that one – yeah.

SIKISA: I mean fair enough.

KATH: If it is a black cat it could've been like, yeah, like Ed said, there could've been like 20 cats knocking about.

SIKISA: I feel like you two are on the side of the cat, where –

ED: Yeah, yeah, yeah. That is it. That is it. We've been sent by the cat.

KATH: I think that's what's happened here. Yeah. Yeah.

SIKISA: Yeah, I just – and I'm like – well –

KATH: And it is a story of you versus the cat. That is what the story is, so –

ED: I – I –

SIKISA: Like the cat was there and it just was just – I was – I was more like, 'why are you – like could you not go and follow something else?' Like there's a whole – there's – the school was quite like large, like you could've gone to the PE area. You could've –

KATH: Yeah, I can see. Yeah, it's –

SIKISA: It's massive. Like you could've just like done something else. You could've gone and visited Spooktown.

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: Like why are you still like here?

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: 7:30. Shouldn't you be asleep? Like –

ED: 7:30.

[Spooky music]

ED: I have two questions about the – the potential ghost of Samantha Brooks.

SIKISA: Oh good, it's not about the cat. Thank god.

ED: It's not about the cat. Moved on – moved on from the cat.

KATH: Moved on from the cat.

ED: Question one: was it the cat? No, I'm joking. Um, question one is –

SIKISA: I will – I'm out of this call right now.

ED: Do you think the ghost owns the cat? Um, did anyone else see Samantha throughout the night is question one. And two is, did you, uh, did you show anyone the skeleton? And was – or was the skeleton there when you went back in there, you know?

SIKISA: In order – in relation to your first question, um, I would like to conclude –

ED: We're getting lawyered.

SIKISA: I would like to confirm that, um, I did not mention Samantha to anyone else at the party.

ED: Right. Right.

SIKISA: Because at that time I had already downed a triple rum and coke and then I had decided, hm, this was too weird for me. I'm just going to say hi to people that I know. Because like I said to you in the story, me and Samantha were not great friends.

ED: Yes.

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: So, um, and unfortunately my best friend Naomi, who I mentioned, could not attend the party. So, um, I was just trying to see people that I did know. Forget about what just happened and go back to South London.

ED: Fair.

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: So that's in relation to question number one.

ED: Thank you very much.

SIKISA: In relation to question number two –

ED: I feel like I'm in court. Thank you, your honour.

SIKISA: In relation to your second question and query, I did not return back to Room 213, which was my old dorm room, after having the scare of the skeleton come out of the wardrobe. I did not return because it was a one-off reunion. I had already visited it once. I did not feel there was a need to go back and visit a skeleton again to see

if it was still there. What I'm basically saying is, it was no longer my issue. I was safe.

KATH: Okay.

SIKISA: I was safe.

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: My ass had come out of that place safe, I was alive, and that's all I cared about.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Your hair was okay. Got rid of the stuff, so –

SIKISA: My hair was okay. Dust had come out of it. I was okay. Everything was fine. I was alive and still breathing. I had taking my liquor inside my body and everything was fine.

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: So I did not care if that skeleton was real or not. If it was real, then let's turn it into a CSI's investigation. I'm more than happy in doing that. I love true crime documentaries. But if it did turn out to be Samantha's body, then it would freak me out even more.

ED: Yes.

SIKISA: And personally I do not want to be involved in the criminal justice system, being a person of colour.

ED: Yeah, fair. Fair.

KATH: Fair, okay. Yeah.

ED: Uh, I think that's – yeah. We won't – we won't ask you anymore why you didn't call the police or anything like that. That's absolutely fucking – yeah, fair. Fair play.

KATH: Yeah.

SIKISA: Thank you. Thank you.

ED: Um, look after number one. Definitely.

[Spooky music]

ED: Well I've got – I've got my thoughts. Should we have a chat about whether we believe the story or not?

KATH: Yeah, yeah.

ED: Yeah?

KATH: Okay. Yeah, I'm happy to go have a little – little chat.

ED: Okay. We must get on so we might as well do it inside the building.

KATH: Should we just go in? Okay.

ED: Excuse me, we're just going to go and have a little chat. So bare with us.

KATH: Okay, yeah. So excuse us one second.

SIKISA: Have fun.

ED: Thank you so much. Um –

SIKISA: The toilets are nasty so don't go in the toilets.

KATH: Okay, yeah. I'm getting that vibe just from the stains on the walls to be honest, so yeah.

ED: Thank you, thank you. Yeah, yeah.

KATH: Steer clear. Alright, just be back in a sec.

[Door creaking, footsteps, wind]

ED: Okay. Um, what do you – what are your thoughts?

KATH: Well, I think there's a scenario here where she came to a school reunion –

ED: Yes.

KATH: Saw a cat, got immediately furious –

ED: Uh huh.

KATH: And then got really drunk, didn't know who she was chatting to.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: It possibly was not Samantha the whole time. It could've been someone else, but she's like, 'yeah, Samantha.' Because that's the only name, you know, she remembered from school. Because her pal wasn't there. I – you know. There's a scenario where this was just a rude school reunion.

ED: Do you remember when you went, um, I think you went to Sankeys or it was a warehouse project?

KATH: Yeah.

ED: And you got really drunk and the next day you – you asked me if I enjoyed the night out.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: And I said I wasn't on the night out.

KATH: Yeah.

ED: And you had just been speaking to somebody else.

KATH: Yeah. I – yeah.

ED: Who you thought was me and my then partner. Maybe it's that vibe.

KATH: It happens. It happened to me. Yeah. So there's a – I –

ED: But also I don't know why she hasn't sold her story. That's my –

KATH: That's a really good point. When you said that, that threw me. I'll be honest. That made me go, 'oh.'

ED: Yeah.

KATH: And I've got to say, the –

SIKISA: [whispers] I would just like to interject and say that if you Google 'Samantha Brooks' her death will come up.

KATH: Is that the wind in the corridor? Oh my god.

ED: I think it was that black cat over there. That was so weird. That cat – that cat just said that if we Google 'Samantha Brooks' – that is a very polite cat –

KATH: Really polite, actually.

ED: But it said if we Google 'Samantha Brooks' – let me just Google. You know – you know what I'm like with my Googles. Orgies, ass cheeks, um – just going to Google 'Samantha Brooks.'

KATH: Or Bing.

ED: Or Bing. [typing] Samantha Brooks is dead.

KATH: Oh.

ED: Yeah.

KATH: Okay. Okay.

ED: It says so on her Wikipedia page, which looks like it's just been freshly made.

KATH: Yeah, can we see who's edited it recently?

ED: I can't be bothered. I can't be bothered. I believe it. If it's Wikipedia it's got to be true.

KATH: I –

ED: So Samantha Brooks is dead.

KATH: Okay. Okay. Okay then, yeah, I guess –

ED: It would be insane for her to – like it would be – what a coincidence. I – I think I'm leaning towards believing the story.

KATH: Okay.

ED: It seems like you don't.

KATH: I'm – I'm on the fence. And because of that, I'm happy to lean towards you're in.

ED: I think put it in.

KATH: Okay. I'm happy to, I – you know, like I said I'm on the – I'm not like 100% no. I'm on the fence enough for you to sway me to that side.

ED: I think it's – I think it's a shoe in.

KATH: Yeah, yeah. Go on then.

ED: A cheeky one.

ED: Let's pop back out, give her the good news.

KATH: Okay. okay.

ED: [singing] Pumpumpumpumpumpumpum.

[Door creaks]

KATH: Hey.

ED: Hello.

SIKISA: Oh, hola, como estas?

ED: Nice. Uh, je m'appelle Edward.

KATH: Sut wyt ti?

SIKISA: I will say that's all I learned from my GCSE Spanish. That's all I got.

KATH: Well I just panicked and spoke Welsh back at you, so –

ED: Yeah.

KATH: I don't know any Spanish.

ED: I'll just come out with it, we believe your story.

SIKISA: Oh my god.

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: Thank you so much.

ED: You're more than welcome. Thank you for telling us.

SIKISA: I don't think I've ever been believed before.

KATH: Oh.

ED: We 100 – yeah.

KATH: Oh, well I'm very glad that I stopped attacking the story and decided to let it in. Very – I'm very pleased with my own decision there. Thank you.

ED: We'll let – we'll let you go. Thanks so much for, um, for telling us your story. It was wonderful.

KATH: Yeah, thanks for putting yourself through that as well.

SIKISA: Thanks for having –

KATH: Like to come back after that is –

ED: Yeah.

SIKISA: Yeah, I – I'm hopeful this is the last time I will have to be here.

KATH: Yeah, I mean I'll be honest. I don't think you have to be. You don't – you didn't have to come. Um, we bumped into you, so – but –

SIKISA: Oh yeah, good point. Thanks.

KATH: But thank you. It's been a delight.

ED: Yeah, thank you so much. Have a safe journey back.

SIKISA: Thank you.

KATH: Yeah, enjoy the bus journey.

SIKISA: Bye.

KATH: Bye.

ED: The end. That's it.

[Spooky music]

ED: That was nice.

KATH: That was really nice.

ED: Kath, that was nice.

KATH: Mhm. That was nice.

ED: I don't often say this. That was a nice one.

KATH: Hm.

ED: Hm. Hm.

KATH: Hm.

ED: Hm. You don't hear that often, but hm. Hm?

KATH: Hm?

ED: Hm.

KATH: Are you meeting, uh, are you off to meet someone now?

ED: Huh? Oh, yeah.

KATH: Who are you meeting?

ED: Na-naturellement. Um, who am I meeting? Let me get my phone out. Oh, fuck. Yes. I'm meeting Richard Madeley.

KATH: Oh, Dick.

ED: Yeah yeah yeah. Old Dicky Madeley.

KATH: Hm.

ED: Um, he wants to meet me at the bakery?

KATH: So you don't know?

ED: I think it's the pan bakery. Um, he's saying he's worn his Saturday jeans on a weekday.

KATH: Oh right.

ED: And so he thinks he's haunted.

KATH: Right. What's Judy got to say about that?

ED: Exactly. I mean exactly. You know where I'm going with this. Judy – she's like, 'he's only got one pair of jeans.' But she – when she puts them out for him, she's like, 'here's your Saturday jeans!'

KATH: Oh god, okay.

ED: And she – and then he's – I don't know whether she's accidentally gone, 'here's your Saturday jeans' on a – on a Wednesday.' Wednesday.

KATH: Hm.

ED: Or whether he's gone – he realised for the first time like, 'these are my fucking Saturday jeans!' Even though it's the same pair of jeans.

KATH: Hm.

ED: He only wears one pair of jeans these days. Ever since – [laughs] 'these aren't – these aren't my good jeans!' The funniest bit of footage in the world. Um –

KATH: Yeah. Oh, well good luck unpacking that. Jesus.

ED: You're not coming with?

KATH: Absolutely not, no.

ED: Who's Judy going to talk to then?

KATH: I – I don't want to get involved in Dick and Judy's thing.

ED: She'll be asking after you, but okay.

KATH: I know. I know. I know. That's why I'm going to just steer clear. Too much history.

ED: I'll say you're very ill.

KATH: Thank you.

[Spooky music]

This has been a Little Wander production. Music from Rhodri Viney. Local artwork from Suze Hughes. Voice by Melanie Walters. 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 I Wish I Was An Only Child. Subscribe now on iTunes, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.