

Laura sitting here old memories are flooding back
How we used to put on plays for Mum and Dad
How we made up songs and costumes, plots counter plots we even
made them little ticket stubs
And we'd move the chairs around to make a stage and put a curta
in up
And would make the front room out of bounds for hours as we pra
cticed and we dragged them for the kitchen we're they be trying
to relax as time would say we're ready now
And then we'd pushed them through the doors and then we'd make
them sit and watch and then we'd pause and bow gratefully and a
wait applause
And I remember me and you and Jack sharing baths at Grandpa's f
lat and using the shampoo bottles as props for them made up pup
pet shows
You taught me to go underwater without holding my nose
I still can do that
And we sat there 'till the water got cold being TV chefs

Or whales in the sea surfacing to blow water out and take a bre
athe
Spilling bubbles all over the floor and speaking gibberish
And singing and you made me sit at the plug end cause I was alw
ays the youngest sibling, always
I got so many memories of me and you mainly just giggling over
some inexplicable joke that no one else had even heard
You know that strange intrinsic humour that doesn't even need a
word to be spoken just a little look between us both was all i
t took
To provoke silent hysteria our bodies heaved and shook our brea
th came hard with teary eyes and screechy yelps of glee it's th
e kind of laugh I've only ever seen in Mum and you and me and w
ay back with Jack and Ruth and Cita in their school days we'd g
o on them long car journeys we'd have to sit in the boot on duv
ets and they all get in the back seat and we'd complain it wasn
't fair but it's cause we were the smallest and you would play
with Ruthy's hair and we would sing them cheesy songs together
completely out of key but we did every backing vocal though and
every harmony

And if I got upset you'd prod my face or tickle me or give me c
uddles 'til I forgot what I was crying for my troubles was your
troubles you took the wrong for yours you'd sit me down and li
ke
Kate this just won't do, you would not accept that I'd be sad i
f there was games to play fun to be had cause I was your little
mate you'd drag around and getting mischief with us two the ki
tchen making biscuits I can picture it and then when we got old

er before I toughened up when I was getting picked on you were tough enough for both of us and then when we were teenagers I copied what you wore and then I followed you to youth club and was shocked at what I saw

I went all the kids kissing, smoking fags and drinking coke
And I'd sit there in the corner looking sheepish and remote
But you never let her tease me Laura though I'm sure that you are embarrassed and if it weren't for you Laura I'm pretty sure I'd be more damaged

Anyway so now we grownups right? And I'm sat here treasuring the times and we played out in the streets and didn't have to be in bed 'Till nine how we snuck down to Michaela's house Michaela she was the baddest on the street and she made us watch this horror film we both had nightmares for three weeks

Having sit there on the Dean's wall makeup dance routines to Kris Kross and we'd play cricket with the wheelie bins from wickets Laura none of it's lost those days remain within me they are brilliant and real and I know that at the moment you don't know quite what to feel cause you are ready for that baby Laurel you are ready to be a Mum but a universe it has it's ways and even though you're numb and your mind is spinning backwards and you're hurting and confused I love you like I always have and time will pass and time will move onto other Mum's and then one day one day not far away we'll sit there giggling in silence watching your kids put on a play