

Transcript

Alice, Mabel and Phoebe

Child of Our Time: Turning 20

Alice:

We just did what we wanted.

Mabel:

Dunno, we turned out alright I think.

Phoebe:

Yeah, we're alright.

Mum:

Number one is Alice, number two is Mabel and number three is Phoebe.

Mabel cries and acts like she wants to be fed but she just wants a little cuddle. She's lazy.

Alice is the sensible one. But she lets you know what she wants.

Phoebe's as quiet as a little mouse.

It is hard to get the balance of making sure that all the children's needs are met.

We have to do what fits in with the family, rather than doing it by the book.

I'm really disorganised to be honest. I'm only organised today 'cause I knew you was coming!

Phoebe:

They're just really laid back aren't they? Like compared to other parents, they're a lot more laid back.

Alice:

We just did what we wanted.

They didn't have any expectations at all. Just as long as we were happy, that was it.

Phoebe:

Just let us get on with it really, didn't they?

Mum:

I want them to be happy, to...

Nigel, the triplets' Dad:

...And to be good mates.

Mum:

And to be good friends, yeah.

I want them to know that they're loved, and to be able to give love.

Dad:

I thought, given the same environment, they'd all grow very, very similarly, but they're just completely poles apart, all of them.

Mum:

They all go about getting what they want in completely different ways.

Mabel would be the screamer.

Alice would be the nagger.

Alice:

Break it a half!

Mum:

OK then, break it in half.

The one to hardest resist is Phoebe, because she does it in, "Oh please?" You know and she uses all her eyes and everything to get what she wants. The other two haven't learnt that trick yet.

Alice:

You're still exactly the same.

Phoebe:

Am I?

Alice:

Yeah.

Dad:

Mabel's a little bit more insecure than the other two so Alice is the mothering type, so she'll look after Mabel. Whereas Phoebe is quite sort of strong. She's ok, she'll go off on her own.

You're going to look after Mabel, aren't you?

Alice:

Yeah.

Phoebe:

You used to be really quiet and now you won't shut up. You grew out of it.

I think you, these two were really close. I think you still are, aren't you?

Alice:

We're all close.

Phoebe:

Yeah, no, we're closer now, but it was always you and Mabel weren't it? Through school.

Mum:

And in no time, they've gone from being...in a...you know, you can still see 'em being in your arms and then the next minute, they're grown up, they're just gone.

Dad:

One minute you're watching Barney the purple dinosaur, the next minute, you're lending them a tenner because they've run out of cash.

Mum:

Yeah.

Phoebe:

You were a brat. I mean, I know that.

Alice:

And you weren't?

Phoebe:

Not as much as you.

Alice:

Thanks

Phoebe:

It's alright.

She still is a brat.

Alice:

No, I'm not!

Phoebe:

Not as much of a brat

Alice:

Coming from you!

Phoebe:

I'm a delight

Mum:

Sometimes they want to kill each other! Sometimes they're really happy with each other. Do you know what I mean? It's just a normal sister relationship.

Phoebe:

We're 19. We're all working.

Alice:

I'm a dental nurse.

She's an animal technician.

Phoebe:

Yeah, I'm an animal technician.

Mabel:

I'm a supervisor, in retail.

Alice:

Having a family is important to me growing up.

Interviewer:

OK so imagine 20 children...

Alice:

I'm not having 20 children. Jesus Christ.

I'd like to have a child, or a few. I'd want them to be really close. Be more like friends, than siblings.

Right now, I'm not your friend