

Songbirds: 'Pipa's Ring' Part 2 (Final Part)

A jeu de radio by: **Dino Mahoney**

Characters:

(Friends)

Pipa:

Gemma:

Wendy

Mimi

Pansy:

Setting: In the street.

Synopsis:

'Pipa's Ring 2' starts from the same point as 'Pipa's Ring 1,' but develops at a different tangent.

Pipa finds a ring and shows it to Wendy - from there the story of Pipa's ring gets passed on from mouth to mouth and changes dramatically in a series of Chinese whispers.

(SFX: Generic street sounds)

Pipa: Hey Wendy, look what I've just found!

Wendy: A ring! How lovely! Where did you find it?

Pipa: I was just getting off the mini bus and it caught my eye.

Wendy: Where was it?

Pipa: It was just lying there on the pavement in front of me?

Wendy: Lucky you.... I never find anything.

Pipa: I wasn't looking deliberately... I suddenly saw something shinning... maybe the sun was on it.... and I looked down and there it was... so I bent down and picked it up.

Wendy: It looks nice on you.

Pipa: Someone must have dropped it.

Wendy: I wonder who it belonged to?

Pipa: I don't know. I looked around to see if anyone had dropped it... I even held it up in the air... but nobody claimed it.

Wendy: D'you think it's worth anything?

Pipa: Not really... it's just an ordinary ring... the stones look as if they're made of glass.

Wendy: What's Perry going to think when he sees you wearing a ring?

Pipa: (Laughing) I don't know, I hadn't thought of that.

Wendy: He might get jealous.

Pipa: Why would he be jealous?

Wendy: He might think another boy has given it to you.

Pipa: (Laughing) Of course he won't... I'll tell him how I found it.

Wendy: He might think you're covering up.

Pipa: (Laughing) Well if Perry wants to think I've got another admirer... why not?... It might make him pay more attention to me.

Wendy: How are things going with Perry?

Pipa: Fine... we're going to see a film tomorrow.

Wendy: That's nice. So you're happy with him?

Pipa: Yes, he may not be the best looking boy in Hong Kong but he's nice and kind... I feel comfortable with him, know what I mean?

Wendy: Yes I do. I'd rather marry someone quiet and reliable than some handsome guy who flirts with other girls.

Pipa: We're not getting married Wendy.

Wendy: Yet.

Pipa: (Laughing) Wendy! You're as bad as my Aunt Dora, she's always trying to get me married off. And I always tell her I'm too young to get married.

Wendy: My Mum got married at eighteen.

Pipa: I know, my Mum got married young too... but it's different now.

Wendy: Why wait till you're old? Some girls leave it too late and never get married at all!

Pipa: Anyway, he hasn't proposed.

Wendy: That ring might give him some ideas.

Pipa: (Laughing) It might... if I leave it on.

Wendy: Don't take it off Pipa, leave it on, give Parry something to think about.

Pipa: Wa Wendy!... you're like my marriage broker... determined to get me fixed up for life.

Wendy: And what's wrong with that? It's good to have someone by your side... two is always better than one.

Pipa: I know... Anyway, I'll just have to wait and see.

Wendy: Can I be a bridesmaid?

Pipa: (Laughing) Yes... if you're prepared to wait.

Wendy: I've always wanted to be a bridesmaid.

Pipa: Why not a bride?

Wendy: Bride? Me? I doubt it.

Pipa: Oh come on Wendy... you'll find someone else.

Wendy: He said he loved me Pipa... he did.

Pipa: I know.

Wendy: He even said that one day.... well he didn't actually propose, but he did say that one day we could be together all the time.

Pipa: It's his loss Wendy.

Wendy: I don't know what happened? What did I do wrong?

Pipa: Nothing Wendy. Forget about him.

Wendy: I wish I could. You know last night I even dreamed about him.

Pipa: Did you?
Wendy: I dreamt we were getting married.
Pipa: He wasn't the right one for you Wendy... better he left now than later... say you had got married and he'd... gone away.
Wendy: I know. Anyway, I wish you all the best with Parry.
Pipa: Thank you.
Wendy: Seeing you and Parry together gives me hope. You seem so right together.
Pipa: Thank you.
Wendy: Look at your pretty ring.
Pipa: It is pretty isn't it.
Wendy: I'm so glad you found him.
Pipa: You'll find someone too Wendy... believe me you will.
Wendy: I can only dream I suppose. Anyway, I'd better be getting along, Mum's preparing dinner for me and I don't want to be late.
Pipa: Okay, see you later Wendy.
Wendy: Bye Pipa.

Music

Gemma: Hi Wendy.
Wendy: (Sighs happily) Hello Gemma.
Gemma: You look so happy... what's happened?
Wendy: I'm not happy for me, I'm happy for someone else
Gemma: That's nice. Who?
Wendy: Pipa. Well, I'm happy for Parry too.
Gemma: Pipa and Parry?
Wendy: (Happy sigh) Yes.
Gemma: Has something nice happened to them?
Wendy: (Pause) Pipa was wearing a ring.
Gemma: Wa! Really?! And you mean...?
Wendy: I think so.
Gemma: Wa! Pipa's so secretive... I saw her yesterday and she didn't say anything about a ring.
Wendy: She only got it to-day.
Gemma: So it must have been last night.
Wendy: I guess.
Gemma: But I thought she was seeing him tonight... she said they were going to see a film together.
Wendy: I think they are.
Gemma: Have they set a date?
Wendy: I'm not sure.
Gemma: I'd love to be a bridesmaid..
Wendy: Me too.
Gemma: Wouldn't it be fun if we were both bridesmaids together?
Wendy: It would be great.

Gemma: What colour would our dresses be?
Wendy: I suppose Pipa would have to decide.
Gemma: But if she's in white... it doesn't matter what colour we wear... all colours go with white.
Wendy: If she does wear white.
Gemma: Of course she will. Won't she?
Wendy: Who knows.
Gemma: You don't think Pipa and Parry have... you know.
Wendy: That's there business.
Gemma: Wendy, you're hiding something from me? What has she told you?
Wendy: (Teasy tone) Nothing.
Gemma: She has and you know it!
Wendy: Let's juts say... I wouldn't be surprised if she doesn't wear white.
Gemma: So they have!
Wendy: I didn't say a thing.
Gemma: D'you think that's why.....?.
Wendy: (Pause) What can I say?
Gemma: Oh my goodness! Can you tell?
Wendy: Well, only from certain angles.
Gemma: Is she going to leave school?
Wendy: I told you Gemma, it's none of my business... what Pipa decides to do is her own choice and as her close friends I think we have to respect that..
Gemma: Of course, of course I do.
Wendy: Now don't go saying anything to anyone.
Gemma: I won't!
Wendy: You know how people talk.
Gemma: Especially the girls in our class!... they're the biggest bunch of gossips in the whole school!
Wendy: It's a pretty ring.
Gemma: Real stones?
Wendy: Parry can't afford real stones Gemma... he's like us... still at school.
Gemma: Yes you're right. Still it's not the stones, it's the thought behind the stones that counts.
Wendy: Absolutely.
Gemma: Look at the time!... I'm meeting Mimi for a spot of shopping, want to come?
Wendy: I can't, I'm having dinner with my Mother.
Gemma: Okay, got to dash, see you soon.
Wendy: Bye Gemma.

Music

Gemma: Hi Mimi... sorry I kept you waiting.
Mimi: That's okay.
Gemma: Hey Mimi. I've just heard something and I'm busting to tell someone.

Mimi: What? Tell me.

Gemma: Mimi, can you keep a secret?.

Mimi: Of course I can! When you told me Priscilla Wong stole a lipstick from a supermarket did I tell anyone?

Gemma: (Dubious) No... but somebody did.

Mimi: Well it wasn't me!

Gemma: Okay then, but you have to promise not to breath a word to anyone... not even your sister.

Mimi: I swear on my life I will not tell anyone, ever, not even my sister, and if I do tell anyone may I lose all of my hair!

Gemma: (Pause) Wow, that's a pretty strong promise.

Mimi: I know and I mean it.

Gemma: Okay then. It's about....

Mimi: (Eager) Priscilla?

Gemma: No, not Priscilla this time....It's about Pipa.

Mimi: Pipa?! What's she done?

Gemma: Well... you'll never guess.

Mimi: Quick tell me, I can't bear the suspense!

Gemma: You're never going to believe this.

Mimi: Go on... go on!

Gemma: She's started wearing a ring.

Mimi: A ring, what kind of ring!

Gemma: Parry gave it to her.

Mimi: (A long sharp intake of breath) Wow! (Pause) You mean...?

Gemma: Yes.

Mimi: (Almost speechless) But they're both still at school.

Gemma: For the moment they are.

Mimi: You mean?

Gemma: I don't know what they're going to do.

Mimi: Wait a minute, wait a minute you don't mean she's.....?

Gemma: It looks like that could be the case.

Mimi: And that's why he's given her the ring?

Gemma: Could be.

Mimi: Is she going to have it?

Gemma: (Arch) That's her business don't you think?

Mimi: (Hastily) Oh yes, yes of course... I wasn't prying or anything.

Gemma: They'll have to take things one step at a time.

Mimi: Of course. I hope she doesn't leave school, I like Pipa, I'll miss her.

Gemma: We all will.

Mimi: Yes of course. D'you think she'll let me be a bridesmaid?

Gemma: Will your mother allow you to if Pipa's....

Mimi: That's a thought... probably not. Does it show?

Gemma: Depends which angel you look at her from.

Mimi: I see. Poor Pipa.

Gemma: We should be happy for her.

Mimi: Yes, yes I suppose we should... Come on Gemma, let's do some shopping... it will help to calm me down.

Music

Pansy: Hi Mimi! Wa! What a lot of bags you've got there! Have you just been shopping?

Mimi: Yes... and I bought more than I intended to... but that's what I do when I'm upset... I go shopping and spend, spend, spend.

Pansy: Upset? Why are you upset Mimi?

Mimi: I can't say.

Pansy: Are you okay Mimi? There's nothing wrong is there? You know if you're in trouble I'm always here for you.

Mimi: Thanks Pansy, but it's not about me.

Pansy: Who is it about then?

Mimi: Pipa.

Pansy: Pipa? What about Pipa? Nothing wrong is there? I hope she's alright.

Mimi: Well sort of.

Pansy: She's not ill is she? I'd better call her and see how she is.

Mimi: She's not ill exactly... she's just... well... she may be ill... in the mornings... I'm not sure.

Pansy: In the mornings?!

Mimi: She's wearing a ring you know.

Pansy: A ring? What kind of ring?

Mimi: Parry gave it to her.

Pansy: You don't mean?

Mimi: It looks like it

Pansy: And she's feeling ill in the mornings?

Mimi: That's what I've heard.

Pansy: Oh my goodness! You don't think she's....?

Mimi: Who knows.

Pansy: But if Parry's given her a ring and she's feeling ill in the mornings it loos as if... well... you know.

Mimi: I know.

Pansy: What's she going to do?!

Mimi: Don't know.

Pansy: Does her Mother know?

Mimi: Not sure.

Pansy: But Parry is such a decent boy... I would never have thought...

Mimi: Boys are boys Pansy... they're all the same underneath.

Pansy: Well I'm shocked, I can tell you that much.. When I see that Parry... well I just don't think I can bear to even look at him let alone speak to him.

Mimi: We mustn't judge people Mimi.

Pansy: I know, but it makes me mad... Pipa is such a nice girl.

Mimi: It takes two to tango Pansy.

Pansy: How could Pipa let such a thing happen to her?!

Mimi: She's only human Pansy. And don't forget, Parry has given her a ring. Some boys wouldn't even have done that.

Pansy: That's true I suppose..... So you think they're going to go ahead and...

Mimi: (Self righteous) Pansy, what they decide to do or not do is their business don't you think?

Pansy: Oh yes, yes of course.

Mimi: I don't think we should be trying to make decisions for them, do you?

Pansy: No, no of course not!

Mimi: They'll make their own decisions in their own good time all I am saying is that Parry has bought her a ring.

Pansy: I guess the wedding will have to be soon.

Mimi: I'm not speculating about anything Pansy.

Pansy: It would make sense though wouldn't it.

Mimi: Pansy, stop... if we start talking about when they're getting married pretty soon the whole class will be on to it, all wanting to be bridesmaids and how many girls in our class? Forty? Can you imagine Pipa with forty bridesmaids at her wedding?!

Pansy: I'd like to be a bridesmaid.

Mimi: There you see. It's started already.

Pansy: But I won't mind if she doesn't want me to be.

Mimi: If I know Pipa she'll probably want a small event, just some family and a few very close friends... I'd say she'd have two bridesmaids at most... probably just me and Wendy.

Pansy: (Sighs) Well, if she wants three Mimi... there's always me.

Mimi: That's nice of you Pansy but I doubt it, I doubt it very much. Okay Pansy, nice chatting, but I'd better get on, these bags are beginning to get rather heavy.

Pansy: Okay. Bye Mimi.

Music

Pipa: Hi Pansy.

Pansy: (Heavily consoling tone) Hello Pipa. How are you my dear, dear friend.

Pipa: (Bright) Fine. Hey Pansy. Wanna see my new ring? Look. I found it in the street. Pretty isn't it. It's not real of course, but I kind of like it, don't you.

Pansy: (Heavily consoling tone) Oh Pipa, you are so, so brave... so very, very brave. I just want to say how much I admire you... I feel full of admiration for you I really do.

Pipa: (Puzzled) Really? Why Pansy?

Pansy: I shouldn't have said that, I'm sorry. I just wish I could be as brave as you Pipa, you're a lesson to us all. Look I'll leave you now... I know how difficult it must be for you, I won't stay and tire you any more. Goodbye Pipa. I'm always here for you and... if you need a third one... I'd be honoured, I really would.

(Pause)

Pipa: (Pause. To herself) What's wrong with Pansy, she's acting really strangely. Oh look there's Wendy. Hi Wendy. How was dinner with your Mother?

Wendy: Delicious... but I ate too much as usual.

Pipa: (Pause) Wendy.

Wendy: Yes.

Pipa: I met Pansy just now.

Wendy: Really? How is she?

Pipa: To tell you the truth I'm not sure... she was acting very strangely.

Wendy: Really?

Pipa: She was saying odd things and she had this sad expression on her face... I'm a bit worried about her.

Wendy: I know what you mean. Pansy has been acting a bit strangely recently... I think she's been under a lot of pressure at school. Her exam grades were much lower than she expected you know.

Pipa: Really?

Wendy: Yes, she told me.

Pipa: Well just now when I was talking to her she was acting very strangely:

Wendy: Did she look lost?

Pipa: Yes.

Wendy: And not making any sense?

Pipa: Yes.

Wendy: (SFX: Fade) I hate to say it Pipa, but those are typical signs of depression, she could be heading for some kind of nervous breakdown.

Pipa: D'you think so?

Music

The End