



Exploring Psychology

Exploring Psychology: Twins 4

Narrator

Thirty seven years ago Dorothy was surprised to learn later in her pregnancy, that she was carrying twins and even more surprised, when they were born to find out that they were identical. Her twins, Linda and Sharon, grew up together and now as adults they're striking in their similarity.

Twin 1

We both like the same sort of clothes. The same colours, same styles, quite plain really but both just got the same tastes. I don't know whether we would have had the same tastes, had we been sisters or whether the fact that we're twins has contributed to that in any way.

Twin 2

But I think because we've been grown up together. We've been in the same bedroom even though we had a choice of going into a spare one. For eleven years we still decided to be in the same room. We've grown up with each other. We've been even in the same classroom at school, throughout our whole school years. You know.. I think we've just got the same tastes and I wonder if that's sort of.. whether you could say that about a husband and wife that have lived together for many, many years.

Dorothy

Well it was quite a shock because I didn't know until three weeks before. It would have been say seven weeks but they were born a month early. So it was a shock. Especially I had only expecting one. But I had two other daughters and there was always an argument, who was going to hold the new baby first. And when we found out, my husband just turned to them and said 'there'll be no arguments. You're going to have one each.' and that's how it was. A nurse came and told me in the early hours. And said 'I thought you would like to know, that you're twins are identical there's only one afterbirth.' And I didn't even know until then, that that meant that they would be identical. I found them almost the same. When they were getting a little bit like say to the crawling stage that Sharon could creep before Linda. So Sharon has to go into the playpen, and creep around. And this one sat outside so she didn't go anywhere and then you found that they'd, their personalities would swap. They'd change over so one would be more forward than the other and then the other one would take over and that's the way it seemed to be. But as they grew older, if they hurt themselves, or one of them did. You'd find within a short time, the other one would do just the same, in the same place. I remember Linda having a bit really nasty scratch, really bad wasn't it. And didn't you do the same just afterwards. You know, and same with knees. Whatever, whatever one done, you would find after a little while it would happen to the other one, just the same. But I didn't have any tantrums. No two year tantrums. Not at all.

Linda

But the nice thing is with me and Sharon. We don't have to explain anything. She knows just what I mean, when I say something and I know what she means. You know sometimes with friends, you have to be a bit careful. You don't want to offend them. Never anything like that between us two, is there.

Sharon

No.

Linda

We know how to take each other.

Sharon

We do. Yes and we finish each other's sentences off.