Opening 1 / 10

Good evening, everyone. I'm Rocco, Julian's younger brother, and I would like to be introduced the way my mother introduces me at parties. 'This is Rocco. Please keep an eye on him.' Thank you. I'll take it from here.

Part 2 2 / 10

In our family, there were two kinds of sons. Julian was the one who did the reading, the chores, and the thank-you notes. I was the one who did the things that required an apology to the neighbors. I once taught the dog to open the refrigerator. I want to be clear that it was a very smart dog.

Part 3 3 / 10

Every December, our mother took a family photo for the holiday card. And every December, I did something. Bunny ears behind Julian's head. A silly face. One year I held up a rubber fish. Our mother has twenty-two cards where I look like I'm being arrested by joy.

Part 4 4 / 10

Here is what I only noticed last year. Look at those same photos again, and you can see Julian. He never looks at the camera. He is looking at me. Every year, he is looking at me with the face of a man who has already decided to forgive me.

Part 5 5 / 10

He has been my cover, my alibi, and my ride home. When I broke the fence at the school, Julian said he had leaned on it. When I missed my own graduation party because I'd gotten the date wrong, he cut a cake and told everyone I was running late in the best possible way. Nobody ever knew what that meant, and I'm sure they still don't.

Part 6 6 / 10

Our mother kept a jar on the kitchen shelf. When I was in trouble, I had to write down what I'd done and put the paper in the jar. Last year I opened it. It was full of my confessions, and one note in his handwriting. It said, 'Rocco is a good kid.'

Part 7 7 / 10

Tamsin, I have a confession, and it is also a gift. When Julian brought you to meet us, I planned something. A small prank with the rubber fish. I had it in my jacket. And then I saw how you looked at him, and I put it back. It's the most grown-up thing I have ever done, and no one saw it.

Part 8 8 / 10

So here is my promise. I will not bring the fish to the honeymoon. I will behave at the reception, within reason. And in the next family photo, I'll look straight at the camera, so that for once Julian can look at it too.

Part 9 9 / 10

Julian, you have spent your whole life making a place for me, and I am finally learning to stand in it. Thank you for the cake, the alibis, and every photo you spent looking at me. I love you, big brother.

Closing 10 / 10

Everyone, please lift your glasses. To Julian and Tamsin: may every card you send look like a happy accident, and may someone always be there with bunny ears.