Opening 1 / 10

Hello, everyone. I'm Sasha, and I'm Daphne's stepsister. Our parents got married when I was fourteen and she was twelve. Neither of us was asked, and both of us had notes.

Part 2 2 / 10

The first weekend in the new house, our parents handed us one box and one job. It was a flat-pack bookshelf, and the instructions were gone. 'You two figure it out,' said my dad, who then left to go find a bigger tape measure and did not come back for two hours.

Part 3 3 / 10

Now, Daphne and I had agreed on exactly one thing. We would be polite, and we would not be friends. We lasted about eleven minutes. Daphne wanted to start with the shelves. I wanted to start with the sides. We each held a different piece and said, at the same time, 'No, trust me.'

Part 4 4 / 10

By the time our dad came back, we had built it upside down. It stood in the middle of the room like a very tall, very confused crab. Daphne looked at it, then at me, and started laughing so hard she had to sit on the floor. I sat down next to her. We did not fix it for another week. We kept it upside down just to see who would say something first.

Part 5 **5 / 10**

Nobody said something first. Our parents just stepped around it for seven days, politely, like it was a guest. That is when I understood that Daphne and I were going to be fine. We had both decided to be stubborn in the same direction.

Part 6 **6 / 10**

Sixteen years later, I can tell you what that crab taught me. A stepsister is not something you are handed. It is something you build, badly at first, and then on purpose. Daphne built me a sister out of an afternoon and a lot of patience. Then she stuck around to check that it held.

Part 7 **7 / 10**

Nate, I have to warn you. Daphne reads instructions all the way through, and then she does it her own way anyway. When she says, 'No, trust me,' she is right about eight times in ten. The other two times will make a very good story.

Part 8 **8 / 10**

I also want to say that when Daphne introduced me to you, she said, 'This is my sister.' She did not say stepsister. I noticed. I have noticed every single time since.

Part 9 9 / 10

Daphne, thank you for the crab, and for the sixteen years since. I'll be the first to tell you that you picked a good one, because Nate is the kind of person who reads the instructions and then trusts you anyway. That is a rare thing. Please never take it for granted, and please never build anything upside down on purpose. Actually, please do. It's our tradition.

Closing 10 / 10

Everyone, please raise a glass to Daphne and Nate: may every project you start together stand up, or at least stand there, and make you laugh.