

I'm What?

a monologue
by Kris Thompson

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I'M ADOPTED???. I'm adopted. You're telling me I'm adopted. Well...I'm just...I have no words. Let's see...what's a good word. Umm...Flummoxed. I'm flummoxed. I can't believe you waited until now to tell me! What about the rest of the kids? (pause) No? Just me. (pause) Huh. Wow. Well this is just...this is just fantastic! Now it all makes sense!

Oh, please don't take this the wrong way. I love this family. Nothing can change that, but I've always felt a little like an outsider. You must have noticed. I mean, for one thing, you're all so... (like a bad word) sporty. Thomas...Football. Jonathan...Baseball. You guys with the tennis every Saturday morning. Heck, even Natalie plays soccer. You'll have to admit my best sport is chess. And I don't want to get into that debate again. I realize you don't consider Chess a sport, but it is a competition. It requires strategy and practice. Granted the physical requirements are minimal but even the International Olympic Committee recognizes it as a sport, so...there's that.

But it's not just the sports. You're all so...well...loud. Every one of you. Just really, really loud. I don't know if I'm quite because it's my nature or if I just don't have the strength to keep fighting to get a word in edgewise. Not that I've really minded. It's actually quite amusing to sit back at dinner and listen to you guys go after each other.

And that's another thing. Dinner. You all eat like there's no tomorrow. I don't know if it's all the sports or just good metabolism, but I can't imagine what I would look like if I ate like you. And how come everyone loves corned beef except me? I guess this explains it! Adoption!

It explains so much. My love of books. Where did that come from? My interest in astronomy? My devotion to classical music. Oh! I feel so relieved! Like Atlas, finally putting down the earth. Well, no, that's not exactly right. Actually, Atlas held up the sky. It's a common misconception that he held the earth on his shoulders.

See...there's another thing. My love of Greek mythology. Where did that come from? Now we know. Now I know. Well I don't know. But I'm going to find out.

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