



Elaine & Rebecca - within to cultures

Elaine I understand you've spent quite a lot of time in France.

Rebecca Well, I was born in Paris but went to school in England when I was about 7 or 8 so I had a very interesting up-bringing because when I was in France obviously I was brought up in a French school and so on and then when I arrived in England it was very different and I used to be teased for speaking English with a very French accent because I couldn't actually know how to speak English but very, very quickly I adapted to being in England and really what I found is amazing is to have both cultures especially as a child you always see both sides of things. It's a very useful way of being brought up to always be able to understand that there's a different perspective to doing things because obviously they were very different, the way, you know, even as children - children in France are very different to children in England. But as an adult you suddenly realise what a huge advantage it is to be able to have two countries completely within you. There's no difference - you're not French or English - you're both. And, um, and it makes you very appreciative of other cultures too. So, you definitely don't have an insular perspective on things and I think it's very enriching to go to other countries and learn things.

Elaine Through dividing your time between say England and France as you obviously still do family here, would you say now that you perhaps consider yourself really more European than actually either English or French?

Rebecca I suppose - Europe - I don't see Europe as an entity, in, in.. because I do still think of myself as French and English. Well I mean I don't - I suppose because I think of Europe as being made up of lots of different countries, I see them all as different, separate identities that can all relate to each other. But I do see them as separate countries so the concept of Europe as such isn't something that I think about, um, associate myself with particularly but I definitely feel completely English and completely French - if that makes sense.

Elaine Absolutely. I gather you're planning to have your next edition over in France.

Rebecca Well, it does coincide with the summer holidays. And we did,

obviously there's, uh, very good hospitals in France. There are good ones in London, too. But it is quite nice in our family because we have Jude, my eldest, was born in France and Thomas was born in London so they are very competitive about who's - they say "well, I'm French" and "I'm English" and they always say and actually they're a bit cross - the idea of this one being born in France because it will outweigh the French contingent in the family. but yes, we'll see how that goes but that is the plan at the moment. So I'm being followed by the hospital at Paddington and then at the last minute we'll go off to the South of France. Take the paperwork!

Elaine Well, best of luck!

Rebecca Boys, can I ask you a question.

Elaine Jude - I gather you spend a lot of time obviously over here in France, don't you, visiting family here and time in England. Where do you like to be best?

Jude I like to be in France because we don't go there much often and it's for special occasions.

Elaine Excellent. And I gather you obviously speak very good French.

Jude Yes.

Elaine Tomkin, can you tell me, because you spend time here with mummy and with granny and in England obviously you go to school, where do you prefer to be?

Thomas Well, I actually prefer to be in England with all my friends and.. yeah.

Elaine You like it when you come here, do you?

Thomas Yes. I also enjoy it.

