AM: After this election the two of you somehow are going to have to get together again. Can the party reunite after the election?

SC: Absolutely. And we’re not just about in the same party, I am one of these hundreds of thousands of people who has joined this party in recent months, and I’ve done that for a reason, and that’s because it is a great party with a great history and a great future. And as Ed said in his interview, which I took some heart from, this country needs an opposition and needs a Labour government very soon.

AM: So do you both think there can be a sort of reconciliation period after the election, even if it’s Jeremy Corbyn, he comes in, you – people can come back into the Shadow Cabinet, work together and just bury the hatchet.

SC: I hope so.

AM: This is doable is it?

SC: It’s too important. This isn’t anybody’s private members’ club, you know, for dealing with grievances again and again and again. Let the membership have the election and them reach out healing begin.

EB: Look, it’s important to say if you don’t support Jeremy Corbyn it doesn’t make you a Tory or a neo-Liberal. It might be that we just disagree. What we’ve got to agree on, though, is the purpose. We’re not a permanent party of opposition. We shouldn’t feel good about the fact that we agreed with each in a room of a thousand when what matters is voters at the ballot box. We have
to be a party of government. As George Osborne says today, in politics takes two to tango. We’ve got to be a proper opposition which wants to win power.

AM: Dancing manoeuvres all round. Shami, in our earlier conversation, when I asked you whether you’d had a conversation with Jeremy Corbyn before you were asked to the inquiry you said, ‘I’m not corrupt, and he is not corrupt.’ Which I’m quite sure is true. But it wasn’t quite an answer.

SC: Well, let me try and give you the clearest answer I can. I joined the Labour Party because I want to be part of its future. But I did my report into racism, anti-Semitism with no inducements, no offers, no threats, no interference.

AM: Did you discuss the peerage before?

SC: No.

AM: You did not, okay.

SC: No. But he offered it to me afterwards knowing that I am a Labour person and I want to help.

AM: We’ve got that.

EB: The issue now is to do something about anti-Semitism.

AM: Absolutely. Now, we’re out of time for today.

(ends)