

Episode 10: March 6-12, 2000

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 10.1

OLIVIA

Good evening, (*beat*) here is the 9 o'clock news... (*laughs*) No! Just messing about. Couldn't stop myself once I'd started with 'good evening' - why did I say that? (*laughs, deep breath, tries to be serious*) If you haven't figured it out yet. I'm Olivia, being silly, and this is the Y2K podcast. (*giggle*) Tammi and I were winding each other up before we started recording and I guess I just can't stop! Tammi's agreed to stay in the studio with me today, so I don't have to feel creeped out all alone in this basement. Say hi, Tammi!

TAMMI

(*distant*) Hello! (*laugh*)

OLIVIA

Hello! Of course Tammi's only here to show you that I do have friends and am not a complete loner. All right? (*laughs*) Someone wrote in and said I seemed so lonely and I should find some nice 'chums'. And someone else said I should get a boyfriend. (*snorts*) Not happening. But, yeah. I *have* nice 'chums' so don't worry about me. But I like being alone too. Nothing wrong with that. In fact, pretty damned healthy if you ask me. Anyway. Last week Kat got yelled at, and Jess was going to make dumplings with (*beat*) Rachel. Let's see what this week brings. (*to TAMMI*) Do you want to say it with me, Tammi?

TAMMI

(*distant*) OK!

BOTH

Welcome - to the year 2000!

Scene 10.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (*click*)

JESS

Kat! Everything OK? Just haven't heard from you in a little longer than usual... So... I had a great time the other night with Maia, and Bri, and Tia, and... Rachel. It felt so right to make food together and eat it. Um, yeah. That's what you usually do with food. (*laughs*) I guess what I mean is that it felt normal and home-like and... comfortable. With everything that's been happening I really need that, and I think Bri does too. I was a disaster at dumplings,

though. It's fiddly and you have to pleat them just so. Well, you probably know, oh you of incredible cooking skills! Does Johnno appreciate your cooking properly? He'd better - I *miss* it! Anyways, I just couldn't get the pleats to stay pleated... Bri was a star, though, and Rachel was pretty good. Maia was a pro, of course, as was Tia when she got home from work. But then they make dumplings a lot. I ended up being in charge of making filling, I was pretty good at that. Mushrooms and kimchi and tofu - it was delicious! And we talked and laughed and I felt relaxed and (*surprised*) happy. It was beautiful. And... it was wonderful to see Rachel again. I'll admit - to you but no-one else - that yes, of course I'm attracted to her. She's fantastic. And so kind, and smart, and funny, and, well, gorgeous too. There's a real spark, you know, and I get all babbling and silly 'cause there's no oxygen to my brain. It's... been a long time since anyone made me feel like this. But... there is a but. I really can't deal with anything romantic right now. I am very slowly getting to grips with everything after crisis on top of crisis and I'm not over Claire and I'm still overwhelmed with school and - and this is the most important reason - I want to focus on Bri. I want to make sure she is happy, well as happy as possible anyways, and that there is room for us to talk, and laugh and - cook! - and build our connection again. When that feels more stable, if Rachel's still around and seems interested, then maybe we can try... something. (*laughs*) I don't even know what people do anymore - and even less what they do in New Zealand - I was in a relationship for almost three years that started off as a one-night-stand, hey, I have no clue! A date? Do people even go on dates?? Never mind. Not there yet, not sure I'll ever get there. (*sighs*) I tried writing about my family. We had an assignment that was pretty unstructured, and was just 'write what you know' so I tried describing my parents, you know, as objectively as I could. They have good qualities as well as bad and I tried to bring them out but... it's way too close. Just made me anxious. (*sighs*) Then I tried writing my coming-out-story - everyone has to write that at some point, right? And I never have. But of course my parents play a huge part in that as well. So in the end I wrote about... you. (*nervous laugh*) You don't mind, do you? I wrote about meeting you and us becoming friends and flatmates and spending Christmas in Sweden with you and your Mom that year and how our friendship has always been about supporting each other. Nothing bad or incriminating, promise! I can send it to you if you like. Anyways. I need to start on my next assignment, where I have to make a phone book page somehow tell a story. Yep, same bananas professor. But it's usually fun once I get into it. Have to finish that this afternoon, because - surprise! - Bri and I are going ballroom dancing! Yeah, shocked me too. But they have drop-in dance classes, and Bri was so excited when she saw it, that I just went with it. It'll be a bonding sibling thing. Let me know what's up at your end - you feel very far away today somehow. Sending oceans of hugs! Love you!

(clicks)

Scene 10.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

(Muffled party noises)

KAT

(drunk) Jess! I miss you! Sorry for the radio silence! I'm at Johnno's, he's - *we're* having a party, I guess. Shirin and Emma are here, and loads of Johnno's friends. I'm not sure they like each other very much. I feel... all wrong. *(on the verge of tears)* I'm wearing this dress Johnno gave me and it's really nice, but, you know, not very me. It's black, which is fine, but it's short and poufy and in a shiny fabric which feels weird. Also *(pause)* I suppose it shouldn't be a big deal, but *(beat)* Johnno just told me that this dress that I'm *wearing* used to belong to his ex. I mean, I shop for second-hand clothes all the time, and we've been shopping together at the vintage stalls in Camden Lock, but *(pause)* I just assumed he'd bought me a vintage dress, not that he'd found his ex's dress in his closet and decided to give it to me. It feels weird. Is it weird? Or am I just being oversensitive? Johnno always says I'm too sensitive, that it's upsetting when I cry. He says tears feel manipulative to him. Maybe he's right. *(tries to hold back tears)*
Damn! I need a cigarette! I just- it's just that I've-

(party noises getting progressively more argumentative in the other room during the following)

KAT

(continues) I feel like he's dressing me up as his ex. And in front of his friends who might well have seen her in this dress. And I had no idea. And I... I've been jealous of her. He's talked about her quite a bit and... I've never been properly jealous before. I thought I wasn't the type. And, dammit, the dress- the fucking dress is tight on me, so whatever else she is, she's also thinner than me! Fuck! Oh, Jess, sorry to offload all this on you. I'm drunk, and tired, and upset, and I've been trying to cut down on smoking which isn't helping.

(background party noise, sound of two people yelling, one glass breaking, then four people yelling, running feet, front door opens and slams shut)

KAT

(continues) What the hell is going on out there? *(gets up)*

(door opens, party noises increase)

SHIRIN

(slightly drunk, very angry) There you are! Emma and I are leaving!

KAT

Wha- what's going on?

SHIRIN

That guy in there - Simon I think - is being an arse, and your *boyfriend* is defending him.

KAT

Wha-

SHIRIN

You coming?

KAT

I should-

SHIRIN

(putting on coat) Emma's already outside, I'm going now.

KAT

OK. I'll just tell Johnno-

SHIRIN

Fine. We will wait for exactly five minutes.

(SHIRIN leaves, front door opens and closes)

KAT

(calls into living room) Johnno? *(beat)* Johnno?

JOHNNO

(drunk) How's my princess? You look so hot tonight... (kisses KAT)

KAT

Look, I'm going home with Shirin and Emma.

JOHNNO

No! You can't leave! (grabs KAT and kisses her again) I have a strict policy against you leaving. Let me get you a drink!

KAT

(smiles) Nice reference, sweetie. I- *(tempted)* No. I think I should just go. We'll talk tomorrow, OK? Go have fun with your friends.

JOHNNO

(pouts) But I wanna have fun with my *girlfriend*. (grabs at KAT again, but she slides away)

KAT

(opens front door) See you tomorrow, sweetheart. (gives JOHNNNO a peck, to SHIRIN outside) Be right there Shirin! (remembers) Oh!
(rushes to the computer) Sorry, Jess!

(clicks)

Scene 10.4

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hi Jess... (sigh) Sorry about last night. I was drunk, and everything was messed up. Turns out I also had PMS, which could explain some of the crying... Haven't talked to Johnno yet today, I guess he's still asleep. But Shirin and Emma filled me in on the details on the bus home last night. Apparently this guy Simon, a colleague of Johnno's that I hadn't met before, was trying to chat Emma up all night, I guess I just didn't notice. At first she thought it was OK, he seemed nice enough, but it became more and more intrusive as he had more to drink, and when she said no he didn't accept it and grabbed her and tried to kiss her. Emma of course started yelling at him, and Shirin supported her, and a glass got smashed by mistake. At this point Johnno jumped in and - the way Emma and Shirin tell it - was angry with them for making a big deal out of nothing. Also for breaking the glass, which was some special blah-di-blah design thing. I... I have to get his side of course.

But either way I hate that they didn't get along. They've met before, of course, many times, but my friends had never met Johnno's friends before and I was hoping it would go really well. Yeah. It didn't. (sighs) I miss you. I hope ballroom dancing was wonderful. (laughs) I know it makes your skin crawl to watch it, but maybe it's better when you're actually doing it? I'll leave a more coherent message another time, and let you know how everything goes. And respond to some of the other things you were telling me about... I love you.

(clicks)

Scene 10.5

OLIVIA

Hang on, Kat didn't even seem hungover! That's not fair, she was pretty drunk the night before! Hmpf!

(TAMMI says something unintelligible)

OLIVIA

(continues) True, seems she left sort of early-ish... All right, I feel better now. But that guy Simon, and Johnno standing up for him? That is just revolting. I can't believe Kat is so... so calm about

it. I mean, yeah, she has to hear his side of the story and everything, but the fact that her friend has been sexually assaulted by her boyfriend's mate is a really big deal.

(TAMMI says something unintelligible)

OLIVIA

(continues) You have to come closer, Tammi, *I* can barely hear you. What was that?

TAMMI

I said, it was a different time.

OLIVIA

I suppose it was. Long before hashtag-metoo and everything that followed. But still. Something isn't quite right here. We will see what happens. (beat) Tammi's helped me do a pre-recorded outro-thing, with all the contact stuff, so I will play that now. Saves me from recording the same thing every episode. Talk to you next week! Bye for now!

TAMMI

Bye!

OLIVIA

If you knew either Kat or Jess or any of their friends twenty years ago, I would like to hear from you. Please e-mail me at y2kpod@gmail.com, find me on Twitter or Instagram @y2kpod, that's the number two. Also check out our webpage, at y2kpod.com, where you can find more info, and, of course, listen to all the episodes. The show is also on Apple Podcasts - what used to be iTunes - on Google Podcasts, Spotify and wherever you get your podcasts. If you like Y2K, please tell your friends to listen too! And if you have a minute, it would mean so much if you would rate and review the show on Apple Podcasts. It can help others find the show. And a lso, it makes me very happy! If you want to support the show further - thank you so much - you can do that by going to patreon.com/y2kpod and pledging a monthly amount - from 1 US dollar you get all our episodes early! So if you were a patron, you could check out next week's episode in just a few days! Our fantastic music is created and recorded by Jake Haws, check out his podcast "Making Music with Jake Haws" to hear more. I'm Olivia, thank you for listening, and welcome back next week when we return to the year 2000.

(OUTRO MUSIC)