

Episode 3: January 17-23, 2000

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 3.1

OLIVIA

(full of energy) Hey, this is Olivia and the Y2K podcast - once again I welcome you to the year 2000! But not quite yet *(laughs)* Today I've spent all day outdoors and it was very cold but so so beautiful. *(laughs)* Most of you probably wouldn't enjoy looking at rocks for a whole day -- outdoors -- in January -- in England, *(laughs)* but it really is my idea of bliss. Anyway. Happy you are coming with me on this peculiar trip into the past... Last week Kat was all aglow with lust and excitement and Jess was stressed out and met a librarian. And we're now at the point where I haven't actually listened to the voice mails in advance - I thought it would be cool if I listened along with you. So I have no idea what they're talking about this week. Exciting, right? Let's do it!

Scene 3.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hi there Kat. Sooo... *(sighs)* I got a text from Claire saying she's moving into my old room on Saturday. It's fine. I'm fine. I guess she just wanted me to hear it from her, which is nice of her. But - I would really have preferred hearing it from you. I know, I know, you have a lot on your mind right now, walking on cloud 9 and all that *(smiles)* but, you know, it hurts. Damn! Claire and I spent a lot of time in that room when we were together, and it's... painful... to think of her in there with her new girlfriend. Rose, she's Rose. And not all that new anymore. *(deep breath)* And to think of them hanging out with all of you. Also it's like Shirin and Emma have picked sides now - I thought they were more my friends than Claire's and I talked so much to them, especially Shirin, you know, after the break-up. Not as much as I talked to you, but, you know. And of course I get that you were steam-rolled into this, and it's not your fault, I just - I just wish you had told me. Just -

(knock on door)

JESS

Yes?

(door opens)

MAIA

Hey, Jess, I'm out of milk, can I take some of yours?

JESS

Sure, go ahead.

MAIA

Hold on, are you all right?

JESS

Yes.

MAIA

No you're not. What happened?

JESS

(strained laugh) You don't want to hear my troubles. I'm fine. Or I will be.

MAIA

(sits down) Sure I want to hear your troubles. We don't really know each other yet but I can't let you be this miserable all on your own.

JESS

Right. Thanks. It's - I just found out that my ex is moving into my old flatshare. Into my room. I lived there for almost four years and we spent a lot of time there together. And I - it's just hard. It hurts! *(starts crying)*

MAIA

Oh, I'm so sorry, that's really rough. *(pats Jess on arm)* All right, cry if you need to. *(pause, JESS cries, MAIA makes comforting noises)* Was it recent? The break-up I mean?

JESS

Um... Four months ago?

MAIA

So it's still quite fresh then. And raw. Did he treat you ok?

JESS

She. Claire. *(surprised reaction from MAIA)* Yes. And no. She was pretty decent about the actual breaking up with me - as decent as you can be I guess. But... we were supposed to be exclusive and I found out later she'd been cheating on me for at least a year. *(near tears)* With Rose, who became Claire's new girlfriend three days after she broke up with me. So that was fun.

MAIA

That's horrible. And now she's moving into your old flat?

JESS

Yup. With my old flatmates. It - it feels like they're choosing sides. Betraying me. *(starts crying again)* Re- Replacing me.

MAIA

I'm so sorry. *(pause, Jess cries)* But they're not replacing you, you know. If they are your friends they will stay your friends. Even if they are friends with... Claire, too.

JESS

(collects herself, deep breath) I know. *(beat)* You're right.

MAIA

And you know, they say it takes at least a year to fully recover from a break-up. So maybe give yourself some time?

JESS

Yeah. *(pause)* Thanks for listening, Maia.

MAIA

(smiles) Anytime.

JESS

(beat) Hey Maia - how come you ended up in Auckland? You're American, right?

MAIA

I am. Lived here since I was 15, so almost an honorary Kiwi at this point. *(smiles)* My parents moved here for work, my Mom has relatives here. *(beat)* You going to be all right?

JESS

(shaky smile) I will be.

MAIA

Good. *(gets up, stops at door)* And hey, Jess?

JESS

Yeah?

MAIA

I'm glad you're our new flatmate. *(beat)* Also, I guess Tia and I can stop pretending we sleep in separate rooms now.

JESS

Why-- Oh! Right. Yes, you can definitely do that. *(laughs)* Why would you pretend you weren't a couple?

MAIA

Homophobes.

JESS

(almost at the same time) Of course, sorry.

MAIA

They're everywhere, and we really needed a new flatmate to make rent, and soon! So we decided to keep it quiet so we could suss you out a little. (catches herself) Sorry! Didn't mean to flaunt my happy couplehood in the middle of your ex-crisis.

JESS

That's ok. Gives me hope, I guess. That there *are* happy couples out there (smiles).

MAIA

OK. Good. I'm going to go text Tia to let her know we are officially outed. You sure you're going to be all right?

JESS

Yes. Thanks. Don't forget your milk.

MAIA

Thanks, Jess!

(door closes)

JESS

(back to computer) Hi again Kat. I seem to keep recording conversations with people for you. I- I feel better now. And I feel petty. I know you and Shirin and Emma can be friends with Claire AND me. It's just -- she hurt me so much and I guess I want her to be punished. And being denied your friendship would be a real punishment. Anyways. I'm rambling. As you could tell I'm in the flat now, and I guess I just figured out why Maia and Tia were a little stand-offish (laughs) Maia is so kind. This will be a good place to live. School is still a real challenge both socially and -- increasingly -- academically. They are so many books to read! So many writing assignments! But at least I'm not bored (smiles). So tell me what's up with you - still on cloud 9? I miss you. And I love you. Sorry for being a petty grump. Sending oceans of hugs!

(clicks)

Scene 3.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Oh, Jess! I am so sorry! I forgot! I can't believe I forgot. I'm an idiot. A bad friend. Shit. (deep sigh) I just feel horrible. I really tried to persuade Emma and Shirin to pick someone else, but - majority vote. I know Claire treated you like shit and I won't be

her friend, I promise! I'll punish her with my non-friendship, so there! (*rueful laugh*) And you are not a petty grump. You are right. I should have told you. I meant to. But then I started this thing with Johnno and everything else just flew out of my mind I guess. (*exasperated sound*) I broke the friendship code! Sorry! Sorry sorry sorry! Shit. Hang on. (opens window, lights cigarette, blows out smoke) Smoking calms me down, you know. Johnno doesn't like it, though, he says -- Sorry. Never mind what he says. (*inhales*) Your new flatmate seems really nice. I'm glad you've moved in and that you have started to make yourself at home. I'm a little worried about your workload, though - remember final production at drama school when it got to be too much and you were just frantic and then you kept having panic attacks? Do not let it go that far. Ever again, please. OK? (*inhales*) Maybe I should recruit that nice flatmate of yours to keep an eye on you, huh? Don't think I won't! (Puts out cigarette, closes window) If there are no interesting people at uni maybe you should go back and talk to that librarian, she seemed nice. I miss you! I love you! And oceans of hugs - that's perfect!

(clicks)

Scene 3.4

OLIVIA

(*Has just realized she knows the 'Mum's friend' in the present*) All right. That was pretty emotional. You know, I thought there would be only my Mum and her friend on these files, but other people seem to creep in as well. I haven't decided yet if I like that or not. Will let you know. (*beat*) Anyway, I've gotten some e-mails. So I know at least four people are listening! (*laughs*) They were all about the same thing -- which of the two friends is my Mum. A very reasonable question, really. But... I won't tell you. Sorry about that. I'm not using any last names anywhere, and I want to respect my family's privacy. I guess there could come a time when something in the recordings reveal some details, but I will deal with that when it comes. So you can speculate all you like but I will say nothing. I'll just call them (*very slight hesitation*) Kat and (*very slight hesitation*) Jess. However I would still be interested to hear from you if you knew them around the year 2000? Or maybe if you know anything about the people around them? (*reads, a little more confident*) Please e-mail me at y2kpod@gmail.com, find me on Twitter or Instagram @y2kpod, that's the number two. You can also check out our website at y2kpod.com - we have a website! Very exciting! Our beautiful music is created and recorded by Jake Haws, check out his podcast "Making Music with Jake Haws" to hear more. The link is in the episode description. I'm Olivia, thank you for listening, and welcome back next week when we return to the year 2000.

(OUTRO MUSIC)