



## Episode 5: February 1-6, 2000

(INTRO MUSIC)

### Scene 5.1

OLIVIA

Hello listeners, this is Olivia and the Y2K podcast. I'm... hungover. Yeah. Wasn't going to tell you that but I'm not very good at pretending. *(smiles)* Anyway I'm sure most of you can relate. I'm not that much of a party person but yesterday after class my friend Tammi dragged me to the pub and we were only going to have one pint, but we got to talking and had another and another and all of a sudden it was like 6 am and we'd been dancing and were very very drunk. It's always like that when I hang out with her, she's... magic I guess? *(laughs, stops suddenly)* Ow! My head. Yeah, I know. Only myself to blame. And Tammi, actually. I blame her! *(very quiet laugh)* Ouch. Wouldn't be recording today but I couldn't fit it in earlier in the week and this is supposed to go out tomorrow so I don't really have a choice. I'm not about to mess with the podcast release dates. So you're stuck with this hungover wreck today I'm afraid. *(smiles)* And that told you I was out all night on a Wednesday, yep, living the glamorous student life out here in Brum... *(yawns)* All right, let's get this started so I can grab some painkillers and some more water. Last week Kat wanted to talk to Johnno about money, Claire moved in, and Jess got a mystery phone call. Let's hope they don't yell a lot today! *(winces, subdued)*  
Welcome to the year 2000.

### Scene 5.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Jess! Hello my dear. I can't help wondering who called you - you don't usually stop recording for anything... Interfering librarians and nosy flatmates included *(laughs)*. Fill me in on what's going on, OK? Oh, and did you ever meet that librarian again? She seemed nice. Also I hope you're feeling better. Claire is all moved in, and it's pretty strange having her living here. Though she spends some time at Rose's as well so at least she's not here all the time. And I'm at Johnno's quite a lot, so that helps. Emma and Shirin are acting like Claire's a nice normal person but I just can't. She was awful to you. Though I realize I do have to get on with her so I'm trying to find that ice-cold-but-cordial mode. Not easy! Sorry. Maybe you don't want to hear this. Let me know, OK? And I'll shut up about it. Hang on. (opens window, light early afternoon traffic noise, lights cigarette, inhales smoke, lets it out) Ah... Let's see, Johnno and I are going to see some band called *(tries a few different pronunciations)* Queensrike- Queensrush- Queensryche? Anyway, see

them at Brixton Academy on Sunday. You know I'm always up for trying new things, but progressive metal? Yeah, I'm a little skeptical. Actually a lot skeptical. (*laughs, inhales*) Johnno says the lead singer has a really powerful and emotional voice, whatever that means (*laughs*). But he thinks I will like it, so I'll give it a go.

(*hums Genie in a Bottle*) Christina Aguilera, now \*there's\* a powerful and emotional voice! But it should be fun. (*inhales*) I'm fairly happy working at the pub, Lee is a pretty chill manager, and the people are friendly but not out to be my new best friends. You know. Nice. Also it's only moderately popular so it's never too busy, even on Fridays and Saturdays. (puts out cigarette, closes window) And I'm auditioning, of course, but it feels pretty hopeless. Rejections piling up and, well, it hurts. Especially the theatre ones where I know it's a long shot but I still have to invest in the play and the character in order to audition. And for a moment I feel as though the part is mine and I think about how wonderful it will be and then - boom - I fall back into reality again. Maybe I should have become an engineer like my mother (*laughs*) - no! I would hate that! (*laughs*) - or you know something more sensible where it was possible to get an actual \*job\*. (*beat*) What am I saying? I love acting. I want to act. I will act. I just need to convince someone to hire me. Easy-peasy. (*beat*) Yeah. I was rejected for a Molière maid today, can you tell? (*smiles*) I'll be back to my optimistic self in a day or two. OK, I'm off to work now, take care my dear, and let me know what's up with you. Love you!

(clicks)

### Scene 5.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hi Kat, you always know when something's off, don't you? I should have told you who called but I froze. It was Mom. Yeah, I know. My estranged mother. You know I cut my parents off after I came out and they -- well, didn't? Hardest damned thing I've ever done. And then London and drama school and you and Claire and I felt like the world was the right way around again. (*beat*) What I never told you - I didn't know how - is that Mom reached out to me last year right before final production. She was... civil? And she's been calling me now and then ever since, chatting, steering clear of all the no-go-zones. And I've picked up her calls. I thought maybe we could -- I don't know. Be something to each other -- have some sort of relationship again? I wanted to talk to you about it but it felt so unreal and somehow so delicate, like the slightest draft would disintegrate it. I can't explain it any better than that. So I've talked to her about her gardening and her church friends and my studies, you know, safe things. And it's been nerve-wracking and difficult but also good. Good to be in some sort of touch again. But

the other day I happened to mention that things were a little tough at school and she freaked out and started some weird rant about how I should have stayed in college and in Edmonton. (*angry tears*) I dropped out five years ago! (*beat*) I let her rant on for a while but then I made up some excuse and finished the call. Kat, I don't know what to do. Everything is hard work right now, and I can't handle this on top of everything else. I think I'll have to not pick up her calls. At least for a while. (*sighs*) Oh, but you'd be proud of me, I found a therapist through the university health services - they were incredible. I have an appointment next week, I hope they're good. Let's see, what else is going on... Sunday is Waitangi Day here, like the New Zealand national day, but apparently it's also controversial as many are protesting celebrating a day commemorating a treaty where the Māori people lost their land. Maia and Tia have some Māori friends, and they've invited me to join as they visit them for a Hāngī. I'm sure it will be delicious! And the Monday after that is a bank holiday, so I am abandoning my writing assignments and reading for the day and we are heading to the beach! I've spent surprisingly little time at the beach since coming here and it's time to remedy that before fall comes and it's too cold. Anyways. Have to go write 'an emotion through the description of a tree'. Yeah, that makes no sense. I'd better go find a really good tree! And.. hug it? (*laughs*) Good thing I like trees! Love you!

(clicks)

### Scene 5.4

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Jess! (*laughs*) I love that! An emotion through a tree!! You have to e-mail me what you come up with - I must read this! Are all your assignments like that? Sounds about as cuckoo as drama school! Amazing! (*hums "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree"*) I'm having a great day, Johnno and I slept in and had brunch at this wonderful café and then went to the London Aquarium - you know I love aquariums but I'd never been to this one as it's silly expensive. Yeah. Guess who paid... (*sigh*) Anyway it was magical. Such beautiful blue light through the water and colorful fish and scary sharks swimming by and just so... so mesmerizing - Ha! Vocab word! Remember at drama school I was trying to expand my English vocabulary and you found those "weekly vocab" lists? And then you quizzed me every Friday afternoon at the pub? Thank you! Apparently I learnt something! Mesmerizing! Though I still don't think I've ever used 'bucolic' or 'binomial' in a sentence. (*laughs*) But I know what they mean! And I know those were both in week 'B'! Anyway. (*more serious*) Thank you for telling me about your mother. And I'm so sorry you are hurting. You really didn't need that on top of everything else. I'm crossing my fingers your new therapist is all right. More than all right - amazing! OK? You don't need to pick up your mom's calls if they just stress you

out. On the other hand, I get that just her calling will stress you out regardless. Try to relax this week-end, and have fun with Maia on Waitangi Day. I'll just have to admit that I'd never heard about it before. But I hope it is wonderful, and that you have a lovely day at the beach on Monday! OK, looking out at the grey rain that is London and wish I could teleport over and join you! I have to rush to work - in the freezing sideways rain! Love you! Oceans!

(clicks)

### Scene 5.5

OLIVIA

All right, I'm back. Headache is receding slightly but now I'm nauseous. (*groans*) Better wrap this up. So, Jess's mum is being horrible and Kat's been looking at fish. (*sigh*) I am never drinking again. Ever. Um, so e-mail me if you know anything. About anything. (*reads, a little too quickly*) You can reach me at [y2kpod@gmail.com](mailto:y2kpod@gmail.com), find me on Twitter or Instagram @y2kpod, that's the number two. Check out our website at [y2kpod.com](http://y2kpod.com). Our exhilarating 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. My name's Olivia, thank you for listening, and welcome back next week when we return to the year 2000. (*relieved*) All right, I'm gonna go lie down somewhere...

(OUTRO MUSIC)