

## Episode 6: February 7-13, 2000

### Scene 6.1

(INTRO MUSIC)

OLIVIA

Hello listeners, this is Olivia with the Y2K podcast. Feeling much better this week, thank you for asking. Will go easy on the beer for a while though (*laughs*). So, next term I am going on an exchange somewhere, to study Geology and Palaeontology at a university overseas, and do lots of exciting field work. Listening to these files makes me really want to go to New Zealand. Maybe it's that they've been talking about summer and beaches and February is unusually dreary here this year, but maybe it's that it sounds interesting. Beautiful. Challenging. Not that Jess has been very happy there so far. (*beat*) Anyway. We're supposed to hand in our preferences next week, and I might just put University of Auckland at the top of my list... We'll see what happens. Wherever I end up, I hope to continue with this podcast for as long as it's fun, and there seem to be files available for at least the whole year of 2000!

What I'm trying to say is I'll bring my mic and laptop and the podcast will continue. All right? So last week Jess's mum had been calling from Canada and ranting at her, and Kat was feeling pessimistic about her future as an actor but had a great time at the aquarium. Let's dive into this week, shall we? Welcome to the year 2000!

### Scene 6.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Kat! I wish you *\*could\** have teleported over! I had the most incredible long week-end and somehow getting over Claire and Mom being (*beat*) her awful self again - feels a little further away. Still hurts like hell but not quite *\*bleeding\** anymore, you know? So we went to see Maia's and Tia's friends and had the most wonderful time. We had a really fun, relaxed night. And today we've been at the beach in Devonport along with every other city dweller ... But it was fine, there was a lot of people but it somehow didn't feel very crowded, and we splashed and swam and lay around in the shade reading - I realized I hadn't read an actual novel - well apart from those I read for school - since the flight over here - no wonder I'm not feeling myself! So I picked up a Stephen King - "The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon" - and it was good. Not his best, but *\*definitely\** not his worst. And King is perfect for a beach read, completely immersive and trilling yet the scary bits are tempered by calming waves and gentle breeze and golden sand. It was so beautiful, Kat.

(beat) I've decided to not pick up if Mom calls again. At least not for a while. I need to deal with everything else before I - maybe? - deal with her. But today at least I feel ready -

(sound of door being unlocked, opened, in distance)

MAIA (muffled)  
Jess? You there?

JESS  
In my room!

(knock on Jess's door)

JESS  
Come on in, I'm just-

(door opens)

MAIA  
Hey Jess, we're making ratatouille, you want to join us?

JESS  
Hi...

MAIA  
Oh, this is my friend -

JESS  
(smiles) Rachel, right?

RACHEL  
(smiles) And you're Jess.

MAIA  
You know each other?

*(Jess and Rachel speak at the same time)*

JESS  
Not really, we met-

RACHEL  
Sort of-

*(Rachel and Jess laugh)*

RACHEL  
Jess came to the library a while back. I had to tell her off for being too loud. (smiles)

MAIA

(*laughs*) Well I can start on dinner if you two want to... (*smiles*) I don't know - talk about books? Make a collage? (*laughs, goes to kitchen*).

RACHEL

(*distracted by Jess*) Sure, thanks. (*gestures to bed*) Can I-

JESS

Sure!

RACHEL

(*sits down on bed, rustling, smile*) So it was \*this\* Newmarket flat you were talking about. How did you find it?

JESS

Oh, newspaper listing. I've been really lucky, Maia and Tia are great. Have you known them - or Maia - long?

RACHEL

A few years, since Maia started working part-time at the library.

JESS

Right! I'd forgotten they do that. I always just see them knitting enormous yarn with their arms or hand-dyeing fabric or stuff like that, and then -

RACHEL

(*interrupts*) Then all of a sudden they've turned it into incredible art!

JESS

Exactly! Don't know how they manage to do that every time, but their stuff is so cool.

RACHEL

I don't know if you noticed the huge blue-green-sparkly thing by the entrance of the library?

JESS

Of course! That one's incredible. Plus it has Maia all over it. Wow.

RACHEL

(*nodding at book*) So, what are you reading?

JESS

(*hands Rachel book*) Stephen King. Just finished it today.

RACHEL

(*pages rustle*) Any good?

JESS

Pretty good. Not his best, but you know -

RACHEL

Not his worst either?

JESS

*(laughs)* How did you know I was going to say that?

RACHEL

I've read a \*lot\* of Stephen King. Some of them are- *(hesitates)*

JESS

Barely readable?

RACHEL

*(laughs)* Exactly. Haven't read this one though. Can I borrow it?

JESS

Yeah. I-

MAIA *(muffled)*

Can you two stop flirting and come give me a hand?

JESS

We weren't-

RACHEL

*(interrupts)* Weren't we? *(smiles)* Coming?

JESS

Yeah. *(remembers)* Oh! I just have to finish up my message to Kat. To my friend Kat. In London. Where it's raining. Probably. *(stops herself)* I'm babbling.

RACHEL

You are. Kind of dadaist *(beat)* but I like it. *(smiles)* Thanks for the book. I'll go help Maia. See you in the kitchen. *(leaves with book)*

JESS

Yeah. See you... *(sits down, to Kat)* Hey Kat. That was Rachel. Again. She's- She's- Wow. Yeah. She just showed up in my room. Well you heard that. And she's wonderful. Right. I have to go. Let me know what's up with you - love you! Oceans of hugs!

*(clicks)*

### Scene 6.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hey Jess, so glad you had a good week-end! I almost felt like I was there with you! And I can't believe Rachel is friends with Maia. So... flirting, huh? (*laughs*) I get that you have other things going on, but there was some definite chemistry there. Anyway. I keep asking you about uni and you keep not saying much, apart from it's a lot. So how is it really? Assignments, professors, fellow students? Is it all day every day lectures or seminars or - I don't know - feedback sessions or group assignments... Or is it more you completing a ton of writing assignments on your own? See? I have no clue. Also you have to send me a picture of your room once you feel like you've made it yours. What does your neighborhood look like? What do you see when you look out of your window? You know exactly what \*I'm\* looking at after all... Same old Wood Green. (*sighs*) Johnno's on a business trip this week. In Florida, lucky bastard. I miss him. So much. In such a short time he's become really important to me. To the point where I don't like sleeping alone, and I put off going to bed so I don't have to. Last night I got home from work at midnight and had this idea for new earrings, so I started bending wire and fiddling with beads and then all of a sudden it was 4 in the morning... Yeah, not good for my sleep! But it was so much fun, and I haven't had time to make anything for a while... Anyway, he needs to come home so I get more sleep! Not very romantic perhaps, but I've always been more pragmatic... Johnno's pretty damned romantic, though. He keeps hinting at something he's planning for Valentine's day next week, but he won't tell me what. (*smiles*) So that should be fun. What else? Claire hasn't re-painted your room yet, I think she likes the grey. You know she- Never mind. Also I got my hair cut by some student at Toni & Guy, so it only cost 5 pounds. But I had very little say in what they did, so now I have trendy-ish asymmetrical hair. It's not what I would have chosen, but it's kind of cool. She wanted to dye the roots dark too, which I thought was a funny idea. Anyway her instructor said no, and she just did highlights. Very relieved at that, you know how I hate when my hair grows out blonde under a darker color and it just looks like I'm bald? Yeah, saved by the bell I guess! OK, I should finish this up. Let me know what your therapy appointment was like. And take care of yourself. OK? Love you! Bye!

(clicks)

#### **Scene 6.4**

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hi Kat, so... I saw my therapist today. It was a guy, which was a little weird. I've only had female therapists before. But I decided to give him a chance and told him about Claire, and Mom, and coming

here, and feeling out of place. All the stuff. And he was pretty good. I mean, there was a \*lot\* for him to take in all at once, and he made lots of notes, but he listened, and the responses he gave me made sense, and I feel like I can talk to him, so, yeah. Pretty good overall. I'm seeing him again in three weeks. Things are better, but they're not great. I guess I haven't been talking about school because I don't know what to say. It's pretty good, but... I expected it to be incredible. So, yeah. (beat) Anyways. We usually have lectures and/or seminars every weekday morning. Most of them are interesting, some are very very boring. We have this one professor who cannot structure the discussions, which means the - few! - wackos in my discussion group completely take over, and bring up their own specific hobbyhorses which have little or nothing to do with what we're actually supposed to be talking about. Drives me up the wall. He's a great lecturer, and seems very nice, but he's so useless at structure. He gave us the 'emotion through a tree'-assignment, which was weird but interesting - I will e-mail it to you, have to remember - and when half of us had handed it in he told the other half they needn't bother as one or two had objected to the assignment. So why give it out in the first place?? Yeah. Then in the afternoons we have feedback sessions in groups, and also individually once a week, and time to read and write. It's actually

(JESS' mobile rings, 00s signal)

JESS

Better not be Mom- (*looks at phone, surprised*) Oh! It's Bri, I have to get this - I'll get back to you! So sorry to do this again!  
(answers phone - beep) Hi Bri!

(clicks)

## Scene 6.5

OLIVIA

Aaaall right... Who is Bri? Maybe we'll find out next week! I got an e-mail from someone named Cassandra in Wellington, she says she lived in Auckland twenty years ago and might have known Jess, but she's not sure - she says there were a lot of Jess' and Jessicas around the university at that time. She's going to follow the podcast to see if she picks up any other clues. Thank you, Cassandra! So, please check out our webpage [y2kpod.com](http://y2kpod.com), you can go there for more info, and, of course, to listen to episodes. We are also on Apple Podcasts (what used to be iTunes), Google Podcasts, Spotify and most other podcatchers. Isn't that a great word - podcatcher! Like you stick it up in the air and it catches random podcasts for you! I learned that today listening to the Oz 9 podcast. It is so funny! It's about a doomed spaceship - the Oz 9 - with a completely useless but hilarious crew. You should listen, they could make anyone laugh! Also their AI's named Olivia, which is

just... a really great name (*laughs*). So... If anyone - like Cassandra - thinks you might have known Kat or Jess or their friends around the year 2000 I would be very interested to hear from you.

Please e-mail me at [y2kpod@gmail.com](mailto:y2kpod@gmail.com), find me on Twitter or Instagram @y2kpod, that's the number two. Our amazing 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, (*reads*) thank you for listening, and welcome back next week when we return to the year 2000.

(OUTRO MUSIC)