

Episode 7: February 14-20, 2000

CONTENT WARNING

OLIVIA

Hey everyone, Olivia here. After listening to today's voice mails I feel I need to put some kind of warning here. This episode contains descriptions of a suicide attempt, as well as descriptions of homophobia and transphobia. Please take care of yourself, and if you need to, don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help.

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 7.1

OLIVIA

Hello, my name is Olivia and this is the Y2K podcast. *(beat)* How are you today, listeners? I'm fine, a bit of a cold, pouring rain so not much fun outdoors... So yeah. February in Birmingham! A bit grey and dull really. I hope you are somewhere nicer - I saw the other day that I have a listener in Singapore, which is just... WILD. And great - thank you so much for listening! Either way, I am sure it's warmer there - but maybe it's monsoon season? Let me check *(grabs her phone to google)* Blimey, it rains more than here! But, yes, warm. And humid! All right, suddenly not so jealous of your weather, listener in Singapore! But I bet Singapore is brilliant in any weather! All right, let's get to the story, shall we? Last week Jess had a great week-end and talked to someone named Bri, and Kat missed Johnno and got a haircut. Today I hope we find out who Bri is! Welcome... to the year 2000!

Scene 7.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hello Jess - Happy Valentine's Day! In Swedish it's "All Hearts Day" which I love - gets me thinking about *all* the people I love and not just one romantic partner. And so of course I want to check in with you! So... haven't heard from you for *(jokingly)* *four whole days*. What's up? Anything going on with Bri and your family? Your mother bugging Bri this time? You OK? It's not like you were dancing around like Julie Andrews in the hills of Austria last I heard from you... *(hums "The Hills Are Alive")* So let me know, OK? Let's see... I just auditioned for a toothpaste commercial, have no clue why - yes I do, it's paid work. And at least toothpaste is something I actually use - remember that weird viagra thing we auditioned for last year? So very happy neither of us got that one! What were we thinking? And it was everywhere - still is I think - and the girl

who got it didn't want to go out for months. (*laughs*) Or so her flatmate told me, anyway. Poor thing. (*beat*) Still haven't talked to Johnno about the money-thing. Everything else is good and I don't want to rock the- wait, what is that saying? Rock the... cradle? No, bridge? Boat? No, doesn't sound right. You know what I mean. But, yeah, I'm falling for him. How could I not? He's smart and cute and fun and takes care of me and... I like him. And he doesn't let me get away with stuff, you know? I need that. Remember my wimp of an ex? Don't want to deal with that again. (*beat*) Work is OK. I've gotten some afternoon shifts lately which is much quieter. It's nice in a way, but also a little dull. I -

(Door opens)

JOHNNO

Kat! (*sees her, happy*) You're here! (gives KAT a big kiss) Miss me?

KAT

(*befuddled but pleased*) Johnno! Yeah, but... I thought we were meeting at seven?

JOHNNO

I just missed you . (kisses the top of her head) And... Surprise! I have tickets to see The Hives at six! Happy Valentine's Day!

KAT

(*still taken aback, but happy*) Wow. Thank you! That's great. (*smiles*) Though I've never heard of them.

JOHNNO

(*laughs*) They're Swedish, I thought you'd know all about them!

KAT

Really? (*laughs*) Nope! (*beat*) Um, I was going to- never mind. (*beat*) Oh, but I only got you this silly little thing, I should have -

JOHNNO

(*interrupts*) That's OK sweetheart, you can buy dinner! (kisses KAT)

KAT

OK. Right. (*beat*) When do we have to leave?

JOHNNO

(*looks at watch*) Half an hour? It's at the Astoria. (*beat*) Hold on, what did you do to your hair?

KAT

Oh yeah, I had a haircut. Toni & Guy. What do you think? (*twirls*)

JOHNNO

(*thinks*) Hm. I liked you with longer hair. And... (*takes a closer look*) It's lopsided?

KAT

(*taken aback*) It's supposed to be asymmetrical.

JOHNNO

All right. (*laughs*) Never mind. It'll grow out. (*hugs KAT again, nuzzles her neck*) So what should we do now?

KAT

(*a little happier, slowly*) Well... (*remembers*) Oh! I was in the middle of leaving a voice mail for Jess, let me just finish up.

JOHNNO

All right then. (*kisses KAT, to computer*) Hi Jess! Hope everything's good in New Zealand! (*to KAT*) I'll just grab a magazine and wait for you. (rustle of magazine, quick peck for KAT, settles down on KAT's bed)

KAT

OK. (*to computer, clearly uncomfortable that Johnno stayed in the room*) Um, hi again Jess. So, that was Johnno. But you heard that. Yeah. Where was I? Oh. Update. I didn't get the Ayckborn play, did I even tell you I auditioned for it? (JOHNNO's magazine pages rustling) They called me back, but I found out yesterday they'd cast someone else. It wasn't a huge part, but it was some pay and I like Ayckborn. Also a small tour which would have been fun.

JOHNNO

(from behind his magazine, slightly muffled, distracted) But I would have missed you, sweetheart.

KAT

(*pleased at the sentiment but annoyed at the interruption*) Yeah. But it was only a week, I think we could have managed a week. (*nervous laugh, back to JESS*) I think that's it. Take care of yourself, and let me know what's up with Bri and... everyone. Also, remember to e-mail me that thing we talked about.

JOHNNO

(from behind his magazine, slightly muffled, distracted) Sounds like you're talking in code, sweetie, just pretend I'm not here.

KAT

(*annoyed but tries not to show it*) OK. (*beat*) Love you, Jess, hope to hear from you soon. B-

JOHNNO

(sits up, lays down magazine) You tell your friends you love them?

KAT

Yeah. Well mainly Jess, we've been friends a long time. *(beat)* And I do love my friends, why shouldn't I tell them?

JOHNNO

It sounds so... American.

KAT

Jess is Canadian. *(beat)* I guess technically that's on the American continent. North American continent. The American continents? Anyway. You say that like it's bad.

JOHNNO

No, no I guess not. *(pause)* You've never said it to me.

KAT

And you've never said it to me.

JOHNNO

I... I've told girls I loved them before. And they've hurt me. So I suppose I'm careful with it now.

KAT

(slowly) O--K

JOHNNO

And we're not there.

KAT

I guess we're not, no.

JOHNNO

(hugs and kisses KAT) You're my sweetheart! Isn't that enough?

KAT

Of course.

JOHNNO

(looks at watch) We have to run - are you ready?

KAT

OK, just let me get my things. (noise of grabbing purse, jacket, shoes)

JOHNNO

Let's be off!

(door opens and closes, footsteps. Pause. Running feet, door thrown open)

JOHNNO

(muffled) Get a move on!

KAT
Sorry! Bye Jess!

(clicks)

Scene 7.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hi Kat, sorry about the radio silence... And for hanging up on you, twice. Ugh. Sorry again. Bri was really upset. And so far away. I was inches from calling the emergency services in Edmonton from the landline and get them to send an ambulance over. But in the end I didn't, just kept her talking. Down from the ledge as it were.

Literally. Bri had the sleeping pills on hand. Kat, it was so scary!! *(swallows, pause)* My wonderful parents have done it again. To Bri this time. I am so fucking angry! Furious doesn't even begin to cover it. Bri and I have been e-mailing since I left - neither of us can really afford the phone calls - but you know it's been occasional, we're both busy, and she's graduating college this year - or was supposed to -- OK I'm stalling. *(beat)* Bri finally came out to our parents as transgender. Which they should have figured out years ago, but they are not exactly perceptive... And they took it, well, not at all really. They closed off and asked Bri to leave and not come back. Perfect parents, right? God I hate them. *(yells)* I HATE MY PARENTS. *(pause)* So Bri is coming here. I booked her a plane ticket on my credit card - have to deal with that one later - and am going to meet her at the airport in a few hours. Bri's roommate helped pack and made sure she got on the plane. And Maia and Tia have agreed to let her stay here for a while - they even cleared out their study so Bri can stay there. They really are the best flatmates ever. Thank God for them. Or - I don't believe in God. At least not my parents' awful patriarch with a big beard and even bigger prejudices. Ugh! Wish you were here, Kat. I need someone to hold my hand through all of this. Bri is in really bad shape and I'm not sure we know each other that well anymore. Haven't seen her for over five years and we've only talked on the phone like once a year. But I love Bri. And I will protect her and support her with everything I've got. *(long pause)* So that's my news... Oh, and school is tough still but starting to get really interesting. Also I've finally started making some acquaintances - we started some group assignments and it seems everyone else in my group were as freaked out by the workload as I was and didn't really talk to anyone else either. Anyways. *(beat)* That was an... interesting conversation you and Johnno had. How do you feel about that? The 'love' thing? And -- sorry about the Ayckbourn play. You would have been great, and they're silly not to see it. So there. Right, I'm gonna finish up here - have to grab lunch before I get Bri. I MISS you! I love you! Oceans of hugs!

(clicks)

Scene 7.4

OLIVIA

All right. So now we know who Bri is. I - (*stops herself*) I wonder if Bri turns up somewhere. Her voice I mean. I suppose we will find out. (*looks outside*) I think I will finish this now and defy the rain and go running - I always feel better after a good run. (*lightly*) It's not like I'm going to celebrate Valentine's Day - it's a silly meaningless capitalist construct. (*slight laugh, cheerfully*) Also there is zero romance in my life, and that's the way I like it. I have other things to occupy my time. So, listeners, check out our webpage, at y2kpod.com, where you can find more info, and, of course, listen to episodes. We are also on Apple Podcasts - what used to be iTunes - Google Podcasts, Spotify and wherever you get your podcasts. If you think you may have known Kat or Jess or their friends twenty years ago I would be super interested to hear from you. Please e-mail me at y2kpod@gmail.com, find me on Twitter or Instagram @y2kpod, that's the number two. Our fantastic 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, (*reads*) thank you for listening, and welcome back next week when we return to the year 2000.

(OUTRO MUSIC)