

Episode 8: February 21-29, 2000

CONTENT WARNING

OLIVIA

Olivia here again. So another warning this week. My friend Tammi told me it's called a content warning or trigger warning. Makes sense. Anyway. This time for homophobia, transphobia and verbal and emotional abuse. Please take care of yourself, and if you need to, don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help.

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 8.1

OLIVIA

My name is Olivia, and you are listening to the Y2K podcast. How are you today, listeners? I do know there are a few of you now, which is exciting! Thank you, and thank you especially to those writing in - I will do an episode at some point where I try and answer some of your questions. So tonight I'm recording at the uni radio station studio - a friend of mine convinced them to let me use it and it is so much better than recording under a blanket in my room! Thanks Tammi! And thank you BurnFM! Though it's quite late as it was the only time it wasn't in use, and it's a little spooky here in the basement... Never mind. Let's head into today's voice mails - there are a few more than usual today, though they are shorter. Last week Jess talked Bri down from a ledge, and Kat got a Valentine's surprise from Johnno. Once again - welcome to the year 2000!

Scene 8.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Oh Jess, just heard your latest, this is just a quick message before work - I am so so sorry your parents are being such absolute jerks. Give Bri a big hug from me - I know we've never met but I feel like I know her from all you've told me. And a big hug to you as well - don't forget to take care of yourself in the middle of all this, OK? I'll record a proper message soon - love you! Bye!

(clicks)

Scene 8.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Thanks Kat! I love you! *(beat)* Everything is fairly stable now. Bri is here, the flight went well, and we've talked and talked and talked. Seems our parents never ever mentioned me to Bri, and when Bri said something - you know a general comment like "So I heard Jess is playing Gertrude in Hamlet this semester" they just ignored it. Actual example. I don't get it. Must take so much energy for them. But I guess now they have no kids. I wonder what they'll say to their friends. Anyways. Doesn't matter. I'll get back to you soon with more - love you!

(clicks)

Scene 8.4

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hi Jess! So glad things are stable. And I get that you and Bri have a LOT of talking to do. Five years of talking, right? But make sure you get sleep and food and that you get some time to yourself as well please? I know it's not easy when Bri is having a crisis but you won't be much help if you don't take care of yourself too. OK? And I know this is so easy to say and so much harder to do, but just do it. For Bri if not for yourself, OK? OK! *(pause)* And don't feel like you have to get back to me with a huge long message, or at all for a while. Of course I want updates, and I'm always here to listen, but I don't want to add myself to your already mile-long to-do-list. *(snort)* Muddled metaphor, I know, but you know what I mean. All is ok here, so no worries. Okidoki? Love you! Oceans of hugs!

(clicks)

Scene 8.5

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Kat. I just talked to Mom. It was - She - *(starts crying, but gets it under control)* I wouldn't have picked up, but I was asleep and confused. It's 4 am here. She -- she yelled at me. About Bri and - somehow it was all my fault. I couldn't get a word in. So I just - sat here. And then she said this was God's punishment on her for reaching out to me. *(beat)* And that she'd told her friends at church today that - that - that I was dead. *(sobs quietly)* There's something wrong with her. I see that. But it hurts so much. I was going to hang up on her but she beat me to it. And now - Bri's asleep, of course, and I don't know if I should tell her about this. It's hard, Bri is in such a fragile place yet she is so strong. And so open and trusting despite all the garbage our parents have done. Yeah. I'll tell her. Enough secrets. But first I'll try to sleep some more.

Always a relief to talk to you my dear. Thank you for being there.
Love you!

(clicks)

Scene 8.6

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Good morning Kat! TGI Saturday - I slept late and feel better. Got my coffee and chocolate croissant... Yes a chocolate croissant is breakfast, Kat! More breakfasty than those stinky cheese sandwiches you eat! Anyways. (*takes a bite*) Just wanted to leave a message that's a little more zen than the last, um, five or so? I will be ok, and Bri will be ok, we will make our own family, and it will be wonderful. So there. (*sips coffee*) If Bri gets up in the next hour or so I'm gonna suggest we go do something - we've been holed up talking since she arrived - we really needed to - but now I think it's time to get outdoors and grab some fresh air. Maybe a hike? Might be easier to tell Bri about Mom's latest horror surrounded by trees... I've heard there are some great trails around here. I'll ask Maia and Tia, they're bound to know. (*sips coffee*) So what are you up to, Kat? I feel like my crises have overshadowed everything lately. Things good at work? Johnno and you still happily dating non-exclusively? Any new auditions coming up? You know when I'm a famous playwright I'm going to write you the most incredible part, right? And we will make a smash-hit West End show together! (*smiles through tears*) Yay! I love you! Oceans of hugs!

(clicks)

Scene 8.7

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Oh, Jess! So happy you are feeling a little better! And I hope you and Bri do end up going hiking - take lots of pictures, I'm sure it's beautiful! I always find it easier to talk about difficult stuff while walking. Remember all those walks we took around Wood Green when we were freaking out about final production last year? Don't know if I would have graduated without those. (*takes sip of coffee*) Would you believe I'm also having Saturday breakfast - though it's about 13 hours later than yours (*smiles*). Time difference is strange! No stinky cheese today though, just had an egg sandwich (*laughs*). Which can be a little stinky too, I suppose... And coffee, always lots of coffee! (*takes another sip*) I'm at Johnno's, he's still asleep, so I'm borrowing his computer to send this. We're doing really well - he actually asked me to be his girlfriend last night! (*squeals*) We'd been out with some friends of

his - I was a little nervous but they were nice! Anyway just as we'd walked in the front door he grabbed me and pushed me up against the wall in the hallway and kissed me, and then he looked into my eyes and just *(beat)* asked. No-one's ever asked me to be their girlfriend before. It felt tender and sexy and serious all at the same time. I said yes of course! *(giggles)* So we are now officially a couple and I couldn't be happier. Lately I've been here almost every day - and night. So haven't really seen much of *(beat)* Claire - or Shirin and Emma for that matter. Maybe I'll stay at the flat tonight - have to do some laundry - I'm forever carrying underwear and t-shirts around and never get around to washing them. Anyway. Still haven't -

(steps approaching)

JOHNNO

(sleepy, hugs KAT) Good morning sweetheart!

(JOHNNO nuzzles KAT's neck, KAT squeals. They kiss.)

KAT

(happy) Good morning my love.

JOHNNO

(lets her go, steps away) Told you I don't - I don't want to use that word. *(disdainful)* Love. *(mumbles)* I've used it before.

KAT

(crushed) Oh. OK. Sorry. *(pause)*

JOHNNO

(pulls her back into a hug) That's all right, I forgive you sweetheart! (kisses her passionately) Is there coffee?

KAT

(flustered) No, sorry - Um, you're not usually up this early. I can make-

JOHNNO

(interrupts) All right, you can't fit everything into that sweet head of yours. You focus on being gorgeous, I'll make coffee. *(laughs)* What were you up to anyway, reading all my e-mails?

KAT

No, of course not! I-

JOHNNO

(interrupts again) Joking! Can't you take a joke sweetie? *(laughs, kisses KAT again and leaves)*

KAT

I- (*sighs*) Never mind. I was leaving a voicemail for Jess. (*sighs again, sits down*) Sorry Jess. I don't know what I was talking about. Take care of yourself, and of Bri. I'll call again soon.

JOHNNO

(yells from kitchen) I'm making pancakes - come have some!

KAT

(to JOHNNO) Coming! (to JESS) Bye!

(clicks)

Scene 8.8

OLIVIA

I- I- all right. That was a lot. Yeah. Heavy stuff. It's funny, I get worried about what's going to happen next, but it was twenty years ago - it's already happened! And yet I know so little about it. Which is why if you know anything about Jess or Kat or their friends during this time 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 our episodes. We are also on Apple Podcasts - what used to be iTunes - on Google Podcasts, Spotify and wherever you get your podcasts. If you like Y2K podcast, please tell your friends to listen too! And if you have a minute, it would mean so much if you would rate and review us on Apple Podcasts. It can help others find the show, also it just makes me happy (*smiles*). Our awe-inspiring 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)