

Episode 12: March 20-26, 2000

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 12.1

OLIVIA

(trying to sound cheerful) Hey there, I'm Olivia, and this is the Y2K podcast! (beat) I'm a little low today. Everyone is worried about the Corona virus, and while Birmingham hasn't been hit that hard, it really feels like we are living in scary times. Also talked to my mum earlier and... Meant to tell her about the podcast, but there is so much else going on that I didn't get that far. She asked if I was coming home for Easter and I'm like... Why? I didn't last year. And it's not like traveling is encouraged right now. Also we've never celebrated Easter except for eating lots of chocolate.

(small laugh) We're non-religious chocoholics! And I can eat chocolates here without getting on a plane. I'm planning on maybe a hike, and then holing up with a good novel - all I ever read these days is for uni - and then lots of those celebratory chocolates. And no interfering parents... Anyway. So last week Johnno wanted to be Kat's rock, Kat ignored her mum's phone call, and Jess expressed some doubts about Johnno. Let's see what they're up to today!

Welcome... to the year 2000!

Scene 12.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hey Kat, listen, (*carefully*) I hope you're not upset that I brought up some concerns about you and Johnno in my last message... I just want you to be happy. And if Johnno makes you happy that is wonderful. Right? And you can vent all you like with me and I won't lose sight of the big picture. Promise. Pinky swear. (*beat*) Yesterday Rachel was here again and I swear I cannot think straight when she's around. Whoosh! Despite this we manage to have the most incredible meandering conversations. Yeah. Anyways... I'm busy prepping for Bri's birthday - probably overdoing it to a ridiculous degree because I want it to be the **best* *birthday* *ever**. (*tense laugh*) Yes I'm overcompensating, but I think I'm allowed. I want Bri to feel like she has a family and a home here. I've booked this private dining room at the pub on the corner and lots of pub food... It'll be us, Maia and Tia and Rachel and a couple of other people they know, and some of the ballroom dancing people - we've only been twice and Bri doesn't start working there until next week but they are so nice and so I invited them on impulse - Bri doesn't know. I was thinking of inviting some people from university as well - but Bri hasn't met them so I guess that would be weird. But yes, I do have some people from school who are - well maybe not friends but

hopefully getting there. I talk mostly to Helena, who's a little quiet but so funny and silly and writes the most achingly beautiful poetry, and to Gavin, who raced through undergrad so is younger than everyone else, and has this wonderfully sarcastic sense of fun and is probably the one person in our whole year who will succeed as an actual fiction writer. Anyways. Maybe I should invite them too so it doesn't feel like a sad, tiny celebration? (*exasperated sound*) I just want it to be good! (*breathes in-out*) Right, breathing... Crap. (*breathes slowly*) I need to calm down about this. (*breathes slowly*) Seeing my therapist tomorrow, maybe he will help... (*another deep breath*) I bought cute decorations today. Happy 21st! Balloons and stuff. You know. (*smiles*) Oh, remember your 21st? Also my 23rd... We didn't want to deal with people so we had a flatmate get-together, you, me, Shirin and... Lee! Yeah. That was fun. And this will be fun too. (*deep breath*) Take care my dear. I love you!

(clicks)

Scene 12.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hi Jess, OK, sounds like you are getting a little too stressed out by this party planning. I am sure Bri will love it, and you don't need to invite more people or make it huge - sounds like you have all the ingredients needed for a great night - food, friends and silly decorations (*laughs*). So try to chill a little on this one, OK? Also... (*beat*) It's OK. It **was** hard to hear you say you were concerned about me and Johnno. (*sighs*) But I can't blame you really - I think I only give you one side of the story. Johnno and I have our issues like everyone else, but there are so many good things going on too. (*smiles*) Like yesterday I found out I got this TV ad for - you won't believe this - for IKEA! - and he was so happy for me and bought me the biggest bouquet of flowers I've ever seen! I'm looking at it right now and it takes up half of my room! (*happy sigh*) It feels a little silly somehow to be in an advert for a Swedish brand, but that's why I got it. So not complaining! And, you know, we have so much fun together. He makes me laugh, and think, and feel special, and brings me to all these amazing events and shows and everything. It's like he's showing me a whole new London that I never knew before, it's amazing! (*giggle, grows more serious*) Also, we talked some stuff out last week and, well, cleared the air I guess. Wait, talk out? Clear up? Have out? Ah, you know what I mean! I think he's grasping the money issue better from my perspective, and he agrees that his friend Simon behaved badly towards Emma, though he only relented on that point when his other friend told him what they'd seen... On the other hand, I can't blame him for being loyal to his friends, I am too, and I really value that. (*pause*) So, back to my TV ad! (*delighted squeal*) I'll be a woman who is incredibly good at assembling Billy bookshelves, and

who just churns them out and builds a whole library while her husband does the dishes. Yes, typecasting! As you know I *am* incredibly good at assembling IKEA furniture, though I didn't get a chance to show that in the audition (*laughs*). We'll be filming it in a studio in Hampstead in a few weeks, and I can't wait!

(*muffled voices in distant background*)

Also - it pays real money which is such a relief. Won't help in the long run but is very nice right no-

(*JOHNNO opens door*)

JOHNNO

Hello sweetheart! (*kisses KAT*)

KAT

(*surprised but pleased*) Johnno! I thought you were still at work!

JOHNNO

I left early to see you sweetie. I booked a table at Pied à Terre tonight to celebrate your TV ad.

KAT

Wow! OK. That's- (*beat*) That's lovely, but I have plans with the flatmates tonight.

JOHNNO

(*annoyed*) Really?

KAT

Yeah, it's quiz night at the pub round the corner and we used to go all the time, but I haven't been in ages, so we decided to go tonight. (*beat*) I guess I forgot to tell you, sorry about that.

JOHNNO

But I made reservations. And... I'm sure we talked about doing something tonight.

KAT

Did we? I don't remember that.

JOHNNO

We did, yesterday.

KAT

Oh, OK. (*beat*) I'm sorry. I must have gotten mixed up. (*beat*) All right, I'll cancel the quiz night.

JOHNNO

(*smiles*) Good. (*kisses KAT*)

KAT

Right. (pause) So when's the reservation? And... what on earth should I wear? (starts rummaging in closet)

JOHNNO

Anything you like, sweetie. A sexy dress maybe?

KAT

(distracted) Yeah. (sniffs her armpit) Hm. Do I have time for a shower?

JOHNNO

(looks at watch) Not really, we need to leave in about twenty minutes.

KAT

OK. (looks in dresser, in closet again) Maybe this one...

JOHNNO

Or maybe the one you wore at the party?

KAT

No! I can't wear that. It's- (beat) It hasn't been washed. (deep breath) This one'll have to do.

(discards jeans and t-shirt, puts on dress, sound of zipper struggle)

JOHNNO

Let me help you with that. (zipper) Wow. You look gorgeous in everything sweetheart. (kisses KAT)

KAT

(smiles) Thank you dar- sweetie. OK. (looks around room) Hang on! I think I'm still recording for Jess! (laughs, to computer) Sorry Jess! I think I was pretty much done. Have a great week, talk to you soon! (beat) Oceans of hugs!

JOHNNO

(questioning) Oceans?

(clicks)

Scene 12.4

OLIVIA

(laughs, mimics) "Oceans?" (laughs again) Sorry. That sounded funny.

An IKEA ad, that's not bad! I wonder if I could find it on Youtube... Probably not, too old! Also I want tell Jess to relax a little... In a way it's like they are characters to me at this point. Even though I know they were actual people and of course still are actual people now, twenty years later, this world of

theirs, at this time... it's all *very* different from the people I know today. We're more the same age, and they seem much easier to relate to. I suppose... I always thought of my parents as... not old... but static. Like I'm the kid so I am doing all the growing and changing and they are done with all that. But lately they... are changing things, and changing (hesitates) as people and doing things they never used to do and... well, it freaks me out. They're supposed to be stable, dammit! (sigh) I know that's not fair. Or reasonable. (small laugh) But maybe listening to all these voice mails and hearing my mum as a younger, less sure and... unformed version of herself is helping me understand her a little better now as well. That's the idea, anyway. (beat) All right, enough rambling for today. Take care of yourselves, listeners. Stay safe and healthy in this scary world. Talk to you next week. Here comes the outro.
Bye!

OLIVIA

If you knew either Kat or Jess or any of their friends twenty years ago, 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 the episodes. The show is also on Apple Podcasts - what used to be iTunes - on Google Podcasts, Spotify and wherever you get your podcasts. If you like Y2K, please tell your friends to listen too! And if you have a minute, it would mean so much if you would rate and review the show on Apple Podcasts. It can help others find the show. And also, it makes me very happy! If you want to support the show further - thank you so much - you can do that by going to patreon.com/y2kpod and pledging a monthly amount - from 1 US dollar you get all our episodes early! So if you were a patron, you could check out next week's episode in just a few days! Our fantastic music is created and recorded by Jake Haws, check out his podcast "Making Music with Jake Haws" to hear more. I'm Olivia, thank you for listening, and welcome back next week when we return to the year 2000.

(OUTRO MUSIC)