

Episode 20: May 15-21, 2000

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 20.1

OLIVIA

Hi everyone, my name's Olivia and this is the Y2K podcast. But you know that. *(smiles)* Last week was a pretty happy episode all around - and I'm still feeling great. I'm going to New Zealand! There are going to be so many brilliant field trips and digs and excursions - New Zealand is fascinating and unique from a geological perspective, it's- Yeah. *(smiles)* Not what you're here for. 'Welcome to Olivia's Geology Podcast' *(laughs)*. And New Zealand is unique in many ways apart from geology. The flora and fauna for example - I'm looking forward to lots of stunning hikes! Also, I- *(stops before she says too much, smiles)* Let's move onto the voice mails. Last week Jess was happy for Bri and Kat was a happy cat - basically everyone was happy for a change. Welcome to the year 2000!

Scene 20.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hi there, happy Kat! *(laughs)* I can see you now, with a big cat grin. Perfect! I am so happy you're happy. And I am sure you'll be able to sound excited about washing dishes if you get it - you are a great actor after all! So, has Johnno told his parents about the baby? You haven't met them yet, right? Guess that would be a... conversation. But even if they are a little apprehensive, they'll come 'round once they've met you, so, you know. Keep grinning. *(smiles)* Sorry. Guess this popped up in my head because Rachel asked me to go to Rotorua to meet her family. This taking-it-slow-thing isn't going so well *(smiles)*. Anyways, they're a huge family - Mom, Dad, FOUR sibs and two sets of grandparents all living in the same neighborhood. Plus assorted nieces and nephews and aunts and uncles and cousins and goodness knows who else. They seem absolutely wonderful from Rachel's descriptions, and I love the idea of a big family, but it's also... pretty early days. And... intimidating. I mean, my whole family these days consists of one other person, and meeting big groups of new people tends to trigger my anxiety, so... Yeah. Also I cannot help feeling like a bumbling Canadian probably stepping on their cultural toes without meaning to, um, yes. The well-known cultural toes of New Zealanders... *(laughs)* You know what I mean. And I know I'm being silly. Not the anxiety thing, but the rest. Maybe I can ask Rachel if I can start with just her parents, or one of her sibs or something. Everyone at once is probably a bit much at this poi-

(Mobile phone rings, JESS checks phone)

JESS

(continues) It's Rachel, let me get this, probably just logistics.

(answers phone, Rachel's voice is only just audible)

JESS

(continues, on phone) Hello my love!

RACHEL

Hey love, we need to talk.

JESS

What's up?

RACHEL

Can I come over?

JESS

Now?

RACHEL

Yeah.

JESS

(confused) Sure. What's going on?

RACHEL

We really need to talk.

JESS

(frowns) Right. (beat) You're... freaking me out.

RACHEL

Sorry. Don't worry. See you in 5 minutes.

JESS

Right. See you.

(beep as JESS hangs up)

JESS

(continues, to KAT) She's coming over. Says we need to talk. But not to worry. What's going on? Fuck. 'We need to talk'. That's code for 'I'm breaking up with you', right? Right? I don't understand. I thought we were fine, thought we were great, actually. Fuck. (tries to calm herself down by breathing) Right. She has said nothing about breaking up. It's just in my head. Until she actually says it I can't assume that's what will happen. It could be anything. Right? Yeah. Could be *anything*. (breathes again) Like what? Something

with her family? Something at work? A wonderful surprise? (*nervous laugh*) Probably not that last one. Five minutes is an incredibly long time to wait. Maybe I should just turn this off-

(Quick footsteps, knock on door, door opens)

JESS
Rachel-

(Rachel gives JESS a quick peck)

RACHEL
Jess, I-

JESS
Hang on, I-

RACHEL
Stop. I just need to say this. Before I lose my nerve.

JESS
I-

RACHEL
Please?

JESS
Mm.

RACHEL
All right. I love you.

JESS
(*draws breath to speak*)

RACHEL
(*quickly*) But that's not what I need to tell you. (*deep breath, blurts out quickly but gently*) I'm pregnant. If all goes well I'll have a (*incredulous*) baby in January. And I would really like to be in a relationship with you. And for you to co-parent this kid with me. (*new breath*) I know it's a lot, and I completely understand if you don't want any of this, but I've been thinking about it all night and... this is what I want. (*long pause*) Are... are you all right?

JESS
(*shocked, tears in eyes*) I thought you were breaking up with me.

RACHEL
(*horrified*) What? No!

JESS

(small smile) That's good. Wow. I need to... process.

RACHEL
Of course.

JESS
Yeah.

RACHEL
(teary-eyed smile) At least you haven't run out the door.

JESS
I won't. I... I love you. *(smiles through tears)* But this... this is big. You know.

RACHEL
I know.

JESS
So... some time?

RACHEL
Yes. There is time.

JESS
(remembers) Crap! I tried to tell you but you wouldn't let me. I was recording for Kat. It's still on, I think.

RACHEL
(embarrassed laugh) All right. *(beat)* Well, hi Kat! Sorry about bursting in.

JESS
(by computer, small laugh) Yeah. You got a lot in this message, Kat. *(beat)* Take care my dear. I'll talk to you soon. Love you!

(clicks)

Scene 20.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT
Hi Jess! That **was** a lot! And... wow. You have to get back with an update soon. That was like... a proposal, really, wasn't it? I mean, co-parenting is a really serious commitment. You know how I've always felt that marriage is sort of meaningless? And yes, I know, that at least I **could** get married if I wanted to, and it is horrible that not everyone can do that everywhere. But my point is that having a child, being a parent with someone, to me that's the ultimate commitment. And for Rachel to ask you to do that is

wonderful, but I can see it could also be really confusing and overwhelming and hard to figure out. *(beat)* I have all these questions! But I am sure you will tell me what you think I should know. Also *(smiles)* you think **my** relationship's been moving quickly?? Yours just entered warp speed! *(short laugh)* I love you:s and a baby and commitment like that! *(snaps fingers)* If you end up going in on all of this of course... Either way. Rachel's family sounds wonderful, but if you do end up meeting them, it makes sense to do it in small doses at first... *(pause)* You're right, I haven't met Johnno's parents. And he hasn't told them, he wants to wait until we're at that 'magical' 12-week-mark. Don't know if I've told you but there are two sets of parents to meet. His parents are divorced, and both have new partners. Seems he has a pretty good relationship with his father, and a more distant one with his mother. I think some of it has to do with the fact that he likes his father's new partner much better than his mother's. Also I think he ended up taking his father's side in the divorce, seemed sort of messy, and his mother is very bitter about the fact that his father is now living with a man. Anyway. It's all a bit complicated, and I am sure I don't know even close to the full story. But I will do my best to charm them once we do meet. I tried to tell Johnno we should probably try to meet them **before** telling them about the pregnancy but he's not sure. And they're not my parents, so I can't push. *(beat)* Anyway, Still feeling good. The queasiness has abated, so almost back to normal. Apart from feeling happy, of course! *(smiles)* Missing smoking a lot more, though, which is to be expected, but still annoying... Talked to my mother today and tried to get her to tell me about her pregnancy - apparently a lot of the time your pregnancy mirrors your mother's - but she was useless! She could hardly remember anything! *(laughs)* Fully in character, though, she's an amazing but sort of distracted parent. Meant I could get away with some sneaky stuff in my teens, so not really complaining. But then all of a sudden she would focus on me like a laser beam and just **pull** out of me whatever silly thing I was planning. She still does it - that's what happened when she made me tell her about the pregnancy! *(laughs)* So, what-

(Front door being unlocked, opening, footsteps)

JOHNNO
Hello? Kat?

KAT
In here Johnno!

JOHNNO
(kisses KAT) Hello sweetie, you messaging Jess?

KAT
I am. Say hello!

JOHNNO

Hello Jess! (to KAT) Feel a bit silly doing that. You done soon?

KAT
Yeah.

JOHNNO
All right. (starts kissing KAT's neck)

KAT
(laughs) Hey, I'll never finish up if you keep doing that!

JOHNNO
(jokingly sulky) Fine, sweetheart. I'll put the kettle on. (kisses KAT, leaves)

KAT
Thanks, sweetie. (to JESS) Sending hugs - I get that this is not the easiest of situations. But, you know, whatever ends up happening, Rachel loves you and wants to be with you. That's a great thing. Doesn't mean you will want to be with her and raise a child with her, but it means that you are loved and appreciated. And not just by Rachel by the way! OK? And if you want to vent, or reason, or rage or whatever, I am here. I am -

JOHNNO
Tea's ready!

KAT
Coming! (to JESS) I'd better go. Love you! Oceans of hugs!

JOHNNO
(a little annoyed) Kat-

(clicks)

Scene 20.4

OLIVIA
(tears in eyes, a bit stunned) Oh wow. Not commenting. (smiles)
Again. Yeah... Some of this I know how it goes - other parts - including most details - I really really don't. So, a lot of this? Complete surprise. Shock sometimes. (deep breath) So if *you* think it's a bit of an emotional rollercoaster imagine what it's like for me - my parents are in there, and other folks I know in the present, and me - I'm in there too somewhere, or the pre-me or whatever.
(sighs) It's interesting, and exciting, and it answers questions I've had, but it is also tough. So. Going to go for a run, I think.
'Til next week. Please listen to this trailer.

(Trailer for Escape!)

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 a lso, 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\[slash\]y2kpod](https://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.