

Episode 25: June 19-25, 2000

CONTENT WARNING

OLIVIA

Hi everyone, Olivia here. After listening to today's voice mails I want to give you a content warning for pregnancy complications. You can read more in the episode description if you are concerned about this. We have a resource page on the website, where we have tried to list as many hotlines and info-pages and support things that we could find from different corners of the world - or at least the English-speaking ones. So if you ever feel you need any resources like that, go to y2Kpod.com/resources and hopefully you will find it there. If not, please message me and I will see if I can put it up on there. Please take care of yourself, and if you need to, don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help.

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 25.1

OLIVIA

Hello again, I'm Olivia and once again we are heading twenty years back in time... After last week's Q and A I got some listener reactions. Some were very encouraging, and some were a little... exasperated with me I think. (*sighs*) I am not trying to be mysterious. I am just trying to find the balance between what I share and what I keep private. It's a funny thing, podcasting. Putting feelings and thoughts and opinions and bits of daily life online for anyone to listen to... And, of course, I'm putting not only my own out there, but also those of my mum and her friend. And some others as well. (*smiles*) It's not like I planned it all before I started. I just found the files and got going. I'm not usually that impulsive, but... I was angry, and disappointed, and felt like I lacked information about- about, well about my family. And about... me. (*beat*) Let's move onto this week's voice mails... So last week Jess and Maia picked up thousands of beads, and Kat and Johnno were heading for Sweden. Welcome to the year 2000!

Scene 25.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (*click*)

KAT

Hey Jess, we're in Sweden! I'm in my mother's study, on her computer. She's making meatballs and koldskål for Midsummer - koldskål's the one you think sounds like coldsore (*laughs*) - it's Danish and it is lovely. Anyway, Johnno is helping out with the cooking. So far it's going pretty well. I realized today that Johnno

is the first serious boyfriend I've brought over here - she's met some of the others when she's visited me in London, of course, and then there was the high school boyfriend, but this is a big step. Also, I'm pregnant, so it's **really** serious, and everyone knows it, so... Yeah. She seems to like him OK. And he's on his best behavior and trying to charm her which is good. So all round looking forward to this week. And it'll be nice to have midsummer here for a change - remember that one year we got very drunk and made a midsummer pole and stuck it in the middle of a roundabout in Palmers Green and danced around it and I tried to teach you the frog song? (*sings*) Små grodorna, små grodorna... (*laughs*) I think this will be slightly more traditional. I actually -

(Door opens, footsteps)

JOHNNO
Open wide!

KAT
(*opens mouth*) Mmm! (*chews*) Hot! (*chews, swallows*) That's perfect!

JOHNNO
Your Mum says to ask you if we need more salt?

KAT
Nope. That's perfect. (They kiss) Thanks for helping out.

JOHNNO
Just trying to make a good impression. You done soon?

KAT
No, just got started. But won't be very long.

JOHNNO
All right. (*jokingly*) But don't leave me alone with Kirsten for too long - who knows what I'll tell her - or what she'll tell me?
(*laughs*)

(footsteps during the last few words of the previous)

KIRSTEN
Tell you what?

JOHNNO
(*nervous laugh*) Just joking. I was saying Kat shouldn't leave us alone too long or who knows what stories we'll tell.

KIRSTEN
(*not quite buying it*) OK. (*to KAT*) How were the meatballs?

KAT
They were perfect! (*smiles*) I've missed your meatballs.

KIRSTEN
Not more salt?

KAT
Maybe a smidge. *(beat)* Oh, and come say hi to Jess, she'll be hearing this.

KIRSTEN
(pulls up a chair, with real warmth) Hello Jessica! How are you? I'm so excited for you, I know you've wanted this for so long. How's school? And are you settling in all right? Katarina tells me wonderful things about someone called Rachel? I am so happy for you! And your brother is there and-

KAT
(interrupts) Sibling. Or sister.

KIRSTEN
Sorry! *(small laugh)* Of course. But, Bri is there with you, right? Must be so nice to have h- her there. You know, you are always welcome here, and Rachel, and Bri. I would love to meet them both. But I get that of course you are all so very far away now and-

JOHNNO
(interrupts, feels left out) The meatballs -

KIRSTEN
Yes, *(to JESS, small laugh)* I'm making meatballs, Jessica. And we need to get started on the kammerjunkere. Pity you're not here - I remember you liking both! *(smiles)* I'd better go. But take care of yourself, and I hope to see you again at least within the next year or so? Hugs from me, and happy Midsummer! Bye! *(gets up, to KAT)*
Katarina, take all the time you need. *(to JOHNNO)* All right, Jonathan, let's get back to work.

(KIRSTEN and JOHNNO leave, door closes, footsteps.)

KAT
(laughs) My mother sure likes you, Jess! And she is right, it would be amazing to see you at least sometime in the next year... But I guess with these two babies it is going to take a while... It was really nice doing that message for you with Shirin and Emma, but it was also a little strange - I hadn't seen them for a while either, and we all live in the same city. I'm going to try to hang out with them more. Anyway. I'd better go help with the cooking - who knows what they're talking about in there! Take care my dear, love you!
Oceans of hugs!

(gets up from chair)

KAT

(*exclaims in pain*) Ow! Helve- OW! Sorry, Jess, I'm sure it's fine.
Love you! (*grunts in pain*)

(clicks)

Scene 25.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hi Kat, so that was a little worrying, are you all right? Rachel says she gets weird muscle aches sometimes when she changes positions, apparently it's the muscles stretching to accommodate the growth of the baby, so maybe it was that? (*beat*) Right, now I'm worried, get back to me as soon as you can, all right? You know what my mind is like once it's started spinning. (*deep breath*) I love you! Oceans and oceans!

(clicks)

Scene 25.4

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hey Jess, sorry I got you worried. I'm... I'm bleeding. It could be nothing, but we're off to the emergency clinic to check it out. (*shaky breath*) I'm still hoping it's nothing, you read all these stories... Yeah. But not looking so good. Not feeling so good either. I-

KIRSTEN

(muffled) Katarina, kommer du?

KAT

(*to KIRSTEN*) Kommer, mor! (*to JESS*) Have to go. Keep your fingers crossed, Jess. I'm scared. I love you.

(clicks)

Scene 25.5

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

(*worried*) Oh, Kat, I am crossing every finger and toe. I **hate** that this is happening. But, like you said, there are lots of stories out there of people bleeding and in pain in early pregnancy who then go on to have healthy happy babies. I know, 'cause I just googled. A lot. Let's make this one of those stories, right? Ugh. This is one

of the times it really really *sucks* to be so far away. But at least your mom is there. (*a little dubiously*) And Johnno, of course. Don't feel like you have to keep updating me, you have other things on your mind, but maybe get your mom to shoot me an e-mail if there's anything to report? I love you, I love you, I love you, and I am *willing* this to go well. Oceans of hugs!

(clicks)

Scene 25.6

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Fuck. Kat. Got your mom's e-mail. (*tears well up*) I am so, so sorry.

This is not fair. Not fucking fair. You are my best friend and I want your life to be easy and fun, not hard and horrible like this.

I want to... strew your path with roses, I guess. (*slight laugh*) Silly of me, I know. And roses have thorns, so doubly silly. Right.

Won't do that. All I can say is that sometimes very bad things happen to wonderful people and it's not fair and it makes no sense.

In that Stephen King book I read a while back it said something about the world having teeth, and biting you whenever it wants. This

feels like one of those times. You've been bitten by the world's teeth and it is awful and... it's nonsense! *Why* you? (*deep breath*)

Right. Will stop ranting now. Get back to me when you feel up to it.

I love you so much, Kat. Sending hugs, hugs and more hugs.

(clicks)

Scene 25.7

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

(*very tired, no tears left*) Hi Jess. This'll be short. Thank you for ranting. I feel... empty. I've cried so much there is nothing left.

There's just blood. So much blood. And pain. (*in Swedish/Danish*)

Lort. LORT. Fucking hell. My body has to take care of this on its own now, is what they said at the clinic. They made it sound like it was a completely normal thing but this feels absolutely abnormal.

It's... grotesque. Why doesn't anyone ever tell you about this?

Apart from all the crying and the horror of not-being-pregnant-anymore it is just so physically *gruesome*. (*sigh*) I'd better go to the bathroom. Again. Love you, Jess. Thanks so much for being there.

Hugs across all the oceans.

(clicks)

Scene 25.8

OLIVIA

(*near tears*) Right. That was... heavy. Wasn't expecting that. (*deep breath*) Should have expected it though. What... Shit. (*beat*) So far from the light and impersonal voice mails I was expecting when I started this... But also... More real. (*sighs*) I'm not sure what else to say, so... Talk to you next week, dear listeners.
Here is today's trailer.

(Trailer for Boston Harbour Horror/Occulting 315)

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](http://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)