

## Episode 27: July 1-9, 2000

(INTRO MUSIC)

### Scene 27.1

OLIVIA

Hello listeners! Olivia here. Still packing and organizing for New Zealand. I thought I didn't have that much stuff here in Birmingham, but once I started going through it I realized I had \*loads\*... As you know I e-mailed (*slight hesitation*) Kat last week and she got back to me yesterday - she has a pretty busy life so I actually expected it to take longer. She suggested we schedule a phone call for next week. Which made me a little nervous actually. I mean, I am looking forward to talking to her, but also the e-mail was very short and I don't know how she feels about the whole thing... Maybe she's angry? Would I be angry in her situation? I... probably would. Let's hope she is more forgiving... Right. Moving on to this week's voicemails. Last week Jess and Rachel admired Maia's art, and Kat was promoted. Welcome to the year 2000!

### Scene 27.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hey Jess. So I did my first shift as manager last night. It was fun, actually. Didn't think it would be. You know bar work isn't my favourite, but this managing business feels good. I like having an overview of what's going on. Also turns out learning new things is a really great distraction tactic. (*small laugh, then sighs*) Johnno doesn't like it, though. I know he's jealous of Lee - which is silly of course - not only do I not even see other men but also - Lee? I was never attracted to him, and we shared a flat for over a year. Anyway. So once I have some more energy I'll probably be looking for another job. (*sighs*) Still feel... empty. I AM empty. (*small sob*) Fuck. I keep replaying that last month of pregnancy - did I do anything wrong? Did I lift something I shouldn't have? Or eat something? Or was I too upset or too stressed or too... something? I know it doesn't work like that. I know it's most likely nothing I did, but... It feels like I must have done something. And... if we \*were\* to try again at some point, what should I do differently? No coffee at all? Lose weight? Only eat bland food? What if we DO try again and I miscarry again? I... The thought of that is just... unbearable. How do people cope? I HATE that this is all completely beyond my control. (*sigh*) Johnno has this endless loop of activities planned. He always plans lots of fun stuff but this is a little much even for him. I think it's his way of dealing with everything. Also to help me deal by distracting me, I guess. And it's good, in a way,

but I am also tired and would just like to crash on the couch sometimes, you know? And watch some silly mind-numbing TV... Instead, in the past week, we've been to... let's see... three concerts, two plays, one gallery opening and... five dinners with friends. Also various drinks and lunches and... no wonder I'm exhausted. Will try to get out of whatever we're supposed to be doing tonight, I think.

(00s mobile ringtone, KAT looks at phone)

KAT

*(continues)* It's my mother, I'll talk to her later. (beep, ringtone stops) Stop it, Jess! I know what you're thinking, that she's worried about me and will get even more worried if I don't answer. I know. I know. *(sigh)* It's just... It's like- like she has a direct channel straight into my heart, so when I talk to her all the grief and the guilt and the sadness and the awful feelings surface. And that is so hard, and so \*exhausting\*. And I'm barely functioning, so I really need to be able to shut out those feelings most of the time, and only let them out in small doses. You know? So. Will talk to her later. Maybe after my Buffy season 1 marathon. *(small laugh)* I love you Jess. I hope things are good at your end, let me know, OK? I'm still here for you, no matter how exhausted and grief-stricken. Oceans of hugs!

(clicks)

### Scene 27.3

JESS

Kat my dear. So wonderful to hear from you. And I am so sorry this is so damned hard. And this is not your fault. Of course it's nothing you did. These things just happen. And they are... horrible. Sounds like you are doing what you need to do to function as well as you're able - I hope you're enjoying your Buffy marathon! And congratulations on your promotion! That is great. And I get that Johnno is jealous, which is not ideal, but, you know, if you enjoy the work, maybe he should just get over it. Right? What if he gets jealous of someone at whatever new job you end up getting, are you going to keep changing jobs? *(beat)* Also, I completely get that it can be hard to talk to your mom right now. So maybe if you don't feel up to it, you can e-mail or text her and explain that? Anyways. Advice section over *(small laugh)*. Do what you need to do to feel all right in all of this. Or as all right as you can. *(beat)* So... I've been writing my screenplay. I'm probably about a quarter of the way through the first draft of the story, and I have the rest all plotted. It's pretty good, I think. It's almost writing itself which is a good sign. Also the characters that sort of started as you and me but with lots of details changed have now taken on a life of their own and are very distinctly \*different\* in so many ways, which is fascinating. It's a story of friendship spanning ten years, and

all the things that happen during that time. I think you'd enjoy it.  
No vampires or monsters, but, you know, has some other qualities.

(laughs) Maybe once you are feeling a little less exhausted you might want to read it? No rush, I'll probably be working on this for months on end... (pause) Yesterday was Canada Day, and Bri and I organized a celebration picnic in the park nearby. It was a bit cold - not really picnic season, which neither of us had actually thought about - it's July, so yeah... But we bundled up and brought extra blankets for everyone. Maia and Tia were there, of course, and Rachel, and Gavin and Helena and some other people from school, and Sharon and some other ballroom dancing folks. It was really nice and relaxed and pretty much everything I wanted Bri's birthday party to be that it wasn't. Bri made these fantastic Brie cheese puffs and mini pizzas, and I made mulled wine for the first time ever which was very tasty. And easy! Also red which fit the Canada theme! And everyone brought wonderful things - we had potato salad and tuna sandwiches and pretzels and Pad Thai and chicken wings and sausage rolls and it was all delicious! And Gavin brought a crate of L & P which is this wonderful New Zealand soda! And then at the end Maia brought out this \*enormous\* chocolate cake with a Canadian flag! It was so cool! You know, I never really celebrated Canada Day in London, but having Bri here it felt so right. Celebrating us and us as a family family and our... heritage, really. And Rachel is family too now, of course, and it just felt so good.

(knock on door)

JESS

(continues) Come in!

BRI

(opens door) Hi sib.

JESS

Bri! Come in! I was just telling Kat about our picnic.

BRI

Hi Kat. It was an epic picnic.

JESS

It really was.

BRI

Like picnics in those British mystery books we used to read.

JESS

Oh, yes! Enid Blyton? Famous Five!

BRI

Yeah. Though my favourites were always the five find-outers and dog.

JESS

Buster! (*laughs*) I'd forgotten about those. They had wonderful picnics.

BRI

They did. You could fly over and have some leftovers, Kat.

JESS

Oh yes! That would be great. Please do that. (*looks at Bri*) You're smiling very wide. Anything special?

BRI

Well. I got a job today.

JESS

That's wonderful! Where? How? When? Where? (*laughs*) Tell me everything.

BRI

That café down the road - Gerrie's? They had a sign in the window, I walked in and they hired me.

JESS

Full-time?

BRI

Yes, until school starts, and then on week-ends. The owner - Gerrie - duh! - has broken their arm, so they need full-time assistance for a while. Start tomorrow.

JESS

That's great! Congratulations! I always thought that looked like a really nice place, but I never went inside. Now it'll be my new hang-out, I'm sure!

BRI

(*smiles*) You will always be welcome.

JESS

Thank you. (*smiles*)

BRI

I'm going to go heat up some leftovers. Want some?

JESS

Yes please! Any Brie puffs left?

BRI

A few. I'll get you some. Bye Kat! (leaves, door closes)

JESS

Kat, don't know if I've kept you updated on this, but it took a while for Bri to get a student visa, so she hasn't been able to work

properly until now and money's been tight. Maia and Tia have been letting her stay rent-free, so generous - and just like them of course. So this is very very good news. Also we can have a café hangout space like they have on Friends! Central Perk, right? Well we'll have Gerrie's! And Bri can wear a cute apron and have pretty hair like Jennifer Aniston and serve us all lattes... Or something. Well, I can dream, right? *(laughs)* Kat, do- *(pause)* Do you want me to avoid talking about Rachel and her pregnancy? I can, you know. I get that it's probably painful to hear about, but I want to check - don't want to avoid it if you don't want me to. *(beat)* Keep finding your restful moments, whether they are in distracting TV or work or other things. I love you!

(clicks)

### Scene 27.4

OLIVIA

And I am back! Wow - Friends! I'd forgotten that show existed. I only remember seeing reruns... It's all right I suppose. Sometimes funny. But also sort of... tired and predictable. My mum made me watch Buffy the Vampire Slayer growing up - and probably none of you are surprised at that, right? *(laughs)* - and I like that much better. But... well it's their thing, you know? I don't think kids often get that excited about their parent's pop culture obsessions. Had to find my own stuff, *(jokes)* be a rebel. *(smiles)* Though my rebellion was mainly reading science journals and studying rocks. *(laughs)* So wild, right? *(smiles)* Anyway. You know what's next, right? Trailer time! Talk to you next week!

(Trailer for This Planet Needs A Name)

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](mailto:y2kpod@gmail.com), find me on Twitter or Instagram @y2kpod, that's the number two. Also check out our webpage, at [y2kpod.com](http://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](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.

(OUTRO MUSIC)