

Episode 28: July 10-16, 2000

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 28.1

OLIVIA

Hello everyone! Olivia here... I am pre-recording this two days after the last episode, because - I am flying to New Zealand when you hear this! Very excited! So please send me good vibes for the very long flight. *(beat)* You'd think they would have found a way to make the flights shorter in 20 years, but, nope! They are still mind-numbingly long. At least Tammi and I won't have to deal with a smoking section on the plane like my mum did... I mean Jess *(smiles)*... Some things do improve! Also... I have some news for you. I've talked to Kat. We had our phone call yesterday. She goes by a different name now - one you might recognize, actually. Forgot to ask her if she'd be OK with me telling you that, so let's stay with Kat for now. *(beat)* I was so nervous, trying to explain all about the podcast and the voice mails and what a podcast is, and... everything. She was really nice about it. She thought it was funny, mostly. And once I sort of hesitantly reminded her of what was going on in her life at the time, she got all serious, and then... She wanted me to tell you that she thinks this story - her story from this time - should be told. And that's all she wanted to say about it. So I suppose I have her blessing. I also asked her advice on telling my parents about it. And she thought for a while and then said to just tell them, both at once if possible. So that's what I'm going to do. More on that after today's voice mails. Last week Jess and her flatmates had a picnic, Bri got a job, and Kat was feeling empty but enjoyed being a manager. Here we go - welcome to the year 2000!

Scene 28.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hey Kat. A really quick message before school. Everything all right? It's been a few days more than usual and I just want to check in. You know me *(smiles)* I worry. And I love you. And I wish things weren't so hard for you. Oceans and oceans of hugs!

(clicks)

Scene 28.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hi Jess. Sorry about not responding for a while. Still caught up in Johnno's whirlwind of activities (*small laugh*). It is exhausting, but I am starting to feel like I need the distraction. Whenever I am trying to relax I go down this hole, you know? Like I am sucked into all the negative thoughts and feelings and it's all one big black hole. Then when I'm at work or out on the town with Johnno I feel... almost normal. I don't know. Maybe I'm running away. But it feels like I need to, at least a little. (*sighs*) You can talk about Rachel and her... pregnancy. It hurts. It really hurts, but... I am hurting anyway, and... I want to know what is going on. It's a strange pain. I feel so guilty, because why would it hurt that Rachel is pregnant? It makes no difference for my situation. My baby is... gone, and I should be able to simply be happy for you. And I am, of course. But it's also so mixed up with the pain and the 'Why me?' and with how absolutely powerless I feel. I saw a pregnant woman on the bus yesterday and it made me want to *scream* just looking at her. (*beat*) Nothing to do with her, of course. All to do with me and my hopes and dreams and pain. (*beat*) Anyway. (*pause*) Johnno wants us to try again. (*pause*) And we probably should. I just... I just can't face the idea. I wanted *this* baby. Trying again, if we succeed, would be *another* baby. And that... Can't face that. Not yet. Also... I can't even imagine having sex right now, so how would it happen? (*unhappy laugh*) There was so much pain and blood and horror that I don't know when I'll feel up for anything else happening in that area. Area? (*unhappy laugh*) You know what I mean. (*beat*) What else? Work is fine - fun even. Turns out I'm quite good at figuring out schedules and doing inventory. Who'd have thought? But still looking for another job. So far no luck. Have some auditions lined up next week, two ads and a play. We shall see what happens... (*sigh*) July is pretty dead audition-wise... Let me know how everything is at your end. I would love to read your screenplay - anything for distraction at this point (*smiles*). Tell Bri congratulations on the job, that's great! I love you. Oceans!

(clicks)

Scene 28.4

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hi Shirin, how are you? I'm sorry I've been so bad at e-mailing. Things are moving so quickly in my life that I don't know what you know and what you don't. But I loved the message you and Emma left with Kat a few weeks ago. So I thought maybe we could do voicemails sometimes you and I. If you want... I'm a little stressed out. School is starting back up next week - it's hard and fast-paced and exhilarating and I need to get going on writing my dissertation. Also... (*deep breath*) I'm worried about this whole becoming-a-parent

thing. I want to be able to support Rachel and the baby, not just emotionally but also financially. *(laughs)* Essentially, I'm going to be a dad, and I have dad worries. Isn't that weird? Or maybe not.

But, you know, Rachel has a steady job so we should be fine... Regardless of whatever I end up doing. Anyways. How are you? How's Dave? And are things getting any more interesting at work? Big kiwi hugs!

(clicks)

Scene 28.5

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

SHIRIN

Hello Jess, good to hear from you. Yes, let's do voice mails - maybe they'll be easier to keep up with than e-mail. Won't keep up to the same frequency as you and Kat, though. *(smiles)* I'm fine. I feel a little stuck, you know. I want to move forward in my career but I don't get the opportunity. I didn't study graphic design for three years to never get to do anything creatively mine, you know? I've talked to my manager about it and he's understanding - or pretends to be - but 'there is nothing else available at this time'. Ugh.

Frustrating. And I get good feedback on my work but I see other people move to more independent work more quickly and I don't know why. *(frustrated sigh)* I am looking at other jobs but they all seem to be pretty similar to what I'm doing now. All right. Enough about work. *(beat)* Dave is fine. He keeps pestering me to be exclusive again, though. I don't want to and he doesn't seem to get it. Maybe time to break it off, but... I'm used to him, you know? *(beat)* Don't worry too much about providing for your coming family. As you say, Rachel has a job, and I am sure the two of you can figure it out. Are you sure it's not all mixed up with your own insecurities about your future career prospects? I mean, you went from acting - very low job security - to creative writing - same low job security. I

know my family were trying to get me to choose something more traditional and less creative, they thought I'd have trouble getting a job in graphic design, but they're fine about it now. Have to go - quiz night with the flatmates. Kiwi hugs from you so... Cockney hugs from me? *(laughs)* Bye.

(clicks)

Scene 28.6

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hi Kat, thanks for the update. I'm glad work is fun and that you are not miserable all of the time. Maybe you need the distraction and to distance yourself from your thoughts a little? Sometimes the bad

stuff is too heavy and you need a break. Also... maybe it's your turn to think about therapy? Maybe just a couple of appointments to sort through these feelings? Think about it, all right? *(beat)* I'll e-mail you my screenplay - what there is so far. Oh, just saying that makes me really nervous! No-one else has seen it yet. I was going to ask Bri to read it but she is so busy with work at the café and next week school starts for her, so I'll wait until things settle down a little. Also she still has her old name in all the university documents, so she is going around to all her professors to ask them to please use the right name and pronouns. Must be exhausting - she is such a private person and this must be like... Like coming out to stranger after stranger after stranger... Ugh. I should make her some tea and cake for when she comes home. *(smiles)* Don't worry, I won't attempt to bake, I know my limits! Maia made some delicious chocolate cake yesterday. I was-

(quick footsteps, soft knock on door)

RACHEL

Jess?

JESS

Come in Rache!

RACHEL

(excited) Look!

JESS

(gets up, quick kiss, curious) What is that?

RACHEL

It's the baby! The check-up today turned out to be the 12-week-scan, I must have gotten them mixed up.

JESS

(taken aback) Oh! Right. I would have- I'm so sorry I missed that.

RACHEL

Me too, love. My fault - I thought it was next week.

JESS

It's all right. *(looks at ultrasound picture again)* So... Um. Not sure I understand this picture.

RACHEL

(laughs) I know! Completely confusing. You should have seen my face when the sonographer started to point out a foot here and an arm there and I just thought it was all a big blurry blob... But then it started to make more sense - see, the head is there, and there's the leg, and the tummy...

JESS

Really? Wait... (handles picture) Oh wow. (*near happy tears*) That's a baby. An actual baby.

RACHEL

Yes. (*near happy tears*) Our baby.

JESS

Oh Rachel. I am so happy.

RACHEL

So am I. And everything looked good, she said.

JESS

That is just wonderful. You are wonderful. (They kiss)

RACHEL

So what were you up to? Writing again?

JESS

(*realizes*) I was talking to Kat. (sits down by computer) Sorry Kat! Didn't mean for you to hear that. Though you did say it was all right to let you know what's up on this front. A very blurry picture. (*smiles*)

RACHEL

Sorry Kat! Didn't mean to burst in. Again. I was just so excited.

JESS

I love you Kat, take care of yourself. More another day. Bye!

RACHEL

Bye!

(clicks)

Scene 28.7

OLIVIA

And I'm back. Cannot describe how odd it is to hear my parents discussing an ultrasound picture of... me? I think I've actually seen that picture - it was on the fridge when I was little. And I agree - from what I can remember it is very blurry and I basically look like a black-and-white tadpole with some wiggly bits that could be limbs if you squint a little... So... they're both here. My parents. In Birmingham. They came to help me pack, and to take care of the stuff that I can't bring to New Zealand. I'm off to meet them right after I finish this, actually. Haven't seen them since Christmas, so... This will be awkward. Anyway. I'm going to tell them about the podcast. I'll let you know how it goes next week - almost two weeks away for me. (*smiles*) So next time I talk to you

it'll be from New Zealand! Please stay tuned for this week's trailer.

(Trailer for Diary of a Space Archivist)

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](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)