

Episode 30: July 24-31, 2000

CONTENT WARNING

OLIVIA

(still shaken up) Olivia here, with a content warning. The voice mails this week are... shocking. So this week's content warning is for retching, implied rape and descriptions of homophobia and emotional abuse. We have a resource page on the website, where we have tried to list as many hotlines, info-pages and support things we could find from different corners of the world - or at least the English-speaking ones. So if you feel you need any resources like that, go to [y2Kpod.com\[slash\]resources](http://y2Kpod.com/resources) and hopefully you will find what you need. Please take care of yourself, and if you need to, don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help.

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 30.1

OLIVIA

Hello dear listeners! Today's been a glorious crisp winter day and we've had our first mini-field trip - it was brilliant! I've had some listener e-mails with questions about my nationality, and my accent, and how much of my life I have spent in New Zealand... And none of it's a secret, I just... I just didn't think it was all that... interesting. But all right *(smiles)*, here we go. My parents and I moved to the UK when I was five. I have vague memories of living in Auckland, but most of my childhood was spent first in north London, and then in Brighton in the south of England. I got teased a lot at school because the kids thought I talked funny.

Worked to get rid of the kiwi accent quickly after that! *(beat)* I visited New Zealand of course, growing up, but definitely not every year, maybe something like every third year or so? *(takes a breath)* Formally I'm a dual citizen of New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Born Kiwi, of course, like mama - Rachel. But my parents applied for dual citizenship for me when I was... ten or something? Same time as mama. They wanted to make sure I could study and work where I wanted. *(pause so the following can be cut if Brexit somehow does not happen)* Of course this was before Brexit - much less use for a UK passport around the EU now... *(pause)* Mum - Jess - already had dual citizenship from before, as her father was born in England. All right. Hope that answers some of your questions on that subject...

(smiles)

I also got another listener question... About my biological father.

You lot are curious, aren't you? *(smiles)* Suppose it's to be expected - I've put all this out there after all. And yes. My "bio-dad". *(deep breath)* We never talked about him, growing up. I mean, I knew he existed, and I knew he was completely out of the picture,

but... honestly I've found out more in these voice mails than I ever found out from my parents. I don't think they tried to hide the information from me, they... From what I know now, (*discovers this theory as she says it*) I think they felt bad that they never managed to track him down. But, yeah. Part of this podcast project, and part of going through the voice mails, has been trying to find information about him. Mike. (*yearning*) I never knew his name before. I never asked. I'm sure they would have told me. I... would like to get in touch with him if I can. So if you know anything about him, e-mail me please? But, you know, don't contact him for me or anything like that, most likely he knows nothing about me... Also, there must be masses of Mikes in New Zealand! Right. Time for some voice mails, don't you think? Let's see what they're up to this week. Last week Jess and Bri - and me and Tammi! - started uni, and Kat's mum was really worried about her. Welcome to the year 2000!

Scene 30.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Kat! I have news! I'm moving in with Rachel! No surprise there I guess - how else are we going to raise a baby together? But it still makes me so happy! We have to get our own place - Rachel's in a flatshare as well and that really is not going to work with a baby - we'd drive the flatmates up the wall! And we found a place in Remuera, we're going to look at it tomorrow and - keep your fingers crossed! - I really hope we get it! I mean Rachel has a proper job and I'm at least a full-time student, so shouldn't be impossible... It's a one-bed but the baby's not going to need their own room for a while, so should be fine. Anyways. Bri (*Bree*) is going to stay with Maia and Tia, and they'll probably move their study to my room. Unless Bri (*Bree*) switches... Oh, they'll work it out! Anyways - did you get my e-mail? Looking forward to hearing what you think... (*smiles*) I have to run - I'll get back to you tomorrow - hopefully with good news on the flat! Oceans!

(clicks)

Scene 30.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hello Jess! I'm so excited about the flat - fingers firmly crossed over here! This will be your first flat that's not a flatshare, right? I loved sharing with you and Shirin and Emma but there's always that sense that only your room is properly *yours* in a flatshare, you know? That everything else is just... on loan, somehow? That's one of the things I loved about moving in with Johnno, that the whole flat feels completely ours... So happy you're

going to have that too! And I did see your e-mail but haven't had time to read it yet - thank you so much though! I am sure I will love it! This'll be a short message too - off to work in a minute. Still enjoying it, but looking elsewhere. Not much luck so far, though... What else? Johnno's birthday is coming up this week and I'm trying to figure out what to do - it's "the big 3-0" so it needs to be good. But as you know I'm a *little* financially challenged. He's of course planned the whole thing - we're having a party at this fancy club with basically everyone he knows, and his band is playing. Should be fun.

(footsteps, front door unlocks and opens)

KAT

(continues) But still. What should I get him?

JOHNNO

(walks in, kisses KAT) Get who, sweetie?

KAT

(laughs) You weren't supposed to hear that! You, of course!

JOHNNO

(kisses KAT again, seductively) Oh, you don't have to get me anything but yourself, princess...

KAT

(stands up, nervous laugh) I have to get to work, sweetie.

JOHNNO

All right. *(seductively)* For now...

KAT

(to JESS) Talk to you later, Jess! Oceans!

JOHNNO

What *does* that mea-

(clicks)

Scene 30.4

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

(upset) Oh Kat! That was awful. The flat was nice, but the landlord was... horrible. I am so *angry*! *(beat)* I am always so ridiculously *shocked* by homophobes. *(frustrated sigh)* I mean, I've met my share, but I think in drama school, and in our circle of friends in London, it was a pretty safe space, you know? Really, you were mostly the odd one out being all straight all the time *(laughs)*. And

I was so lucky coming here and getting to know Maia and Tia, and Rachel of course, and my fellow students of creative writing seem to be generally pretty open-minded, you know... So this has been a safe space as well. Thank God for that - it meant it was a safe space for Bri (*Bree*) too, and she needed it so badly... Anyways. I was not prepared for this jackass. He was fine at first, but as soon as he realized we were a couple he basically threw us out of there saying it wasn't "for the likes of us". Whatever the hell that means. We were both really upset - came home to 'tea and sympathy' with Maia just now, they are wonderful, as always. They're putting the kettle on, I just wanted to let you know as soon as possible. I was-

(footsteps, soft knock on door)

RACHEL

(subdued) You all right, love?

JESS

Come in, my love. Just telling Kat about that disgusting man.

RACHEL

Yes. Hello Kat. (sits down on bed with JESS, small sitting-down-grunt, pause) I don't even know what to say.

(footsteps)

MAIA

I do. He's a fucking asshole and I hope he falls into a ditch somewhere.

JESS

Maia!

MAIA

What? He is obviously a horrible human being.

RACHEL

Maia's right, Jess. *(beat)* No sympathy for that man.

JESS

No. You're right. I'm just... easily shocked, I guess. Don't think I've heard you say an unkind word about anyone before, Maia.

MAIA

Well... *(sits down)* This kind of thing brings out my claws and fangs. I do have them, you know.

JESS

Never doubted it *(smiles)*.

RACHEL

You should see Maia when someone's damaged a library book. They're fierce!

MAIA

Not quite this fierce, though. *(laughs)* I just growl a little.

RACHEL

And they immediately decide to stop arguing and pay the fee.

MAIA

Well... I don't like when people are disrespectful. Not to books, or to people.

JESS

You are wonderful, you know that?

RACHEL

You really are!

MAIA

Well, now you two are getting me all misty-eyed over here. *(smiles)*
You're both pretty great too, you know!

(during previous, front door being unlocked and opened, footsteps)

BRI

This a private love-fest or can I join?

JESS

(gets up) Bri (*Bree*)! (hugs BRI) So glad you're here! Rachel and I had an awful day.

BRI

Sorry to hear that. What happened?

MAIA

They met this asshole landlord and-

(muffled kettle whistle from kitchen)

MAIA

Let's move this to the kitchen. (footsteps)

RACHEL

Yes. (tries to get up) Ow! Jess? (JESS helps her up) Thanks, love.

JESS

(as they head out) You all right?

RACHEL

(smiles) It's fine. *(pants a little)*

(footsteps)

BRI

(stops, calls into kitchen) Hey, sib, were you recording? Your computer's on.

JESS

(muffled) Yeah, sorry, could you turn it off? And say bye to Kat for me?

BRI

(yells) OK. (footsteps, by computer) Hi Kat! (beat) And... bye Kat! Sorry about this. But I suppose you know why they're so upset. Guess I'll find out. (mutter) Now where do I... turn it off, and... Oh, OK, here-

(clicks)

Scene 30.5

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

(muffled party ambience, muffled sound of gig starting during following)

KAT

(drunk and very upset) Jess. Oh Jess. I hope this works. I'm on my mobile leaving this message - got an e-mail from the online voicemail site giving a UK number to call and- (sob) I just hope it works. I really need to talk to you. I'm at the party - Johnno's party - it's fine. Lots of people. I only know maybe a quarter of them. Johnno's band is going on stage now and everyone is so excited and... I don't think he'll notice I'm not there. I- (drink) so I made him a bracelet. Totally his style - leather and silver - and he liked it I think but- he has a different plan. We- I- shit. I haven't been- I haven't wanted sex since the miscarriage. At all. The idea just makes me want to throw up. Johnno's tried to get me interested in - you know - the foreplay stuff or whatever, but... I just... Can't. And I want to, not only 'cause it used to be so good, but also, you know, how else am I supposed to get pregnant again?

(half-laugh half-cry) And I still feel the attraction and everything, I just- it's like I'm in a bubble and it doesn't reach me properly, you know? Have you ever felt like that? Probably not, right? (drinks) Fuck. I feel so alone. (sobs) Anyway. Johnno's booked us a suite tonight. For his birthday. And I know he expects sex. I mean, of course he does. It's his thirtieth - thirtieth - fuck! - his birthday and he's booked a suite and I'm his girlfriend and the miscarriage was over a month ago and - (cries, then deep breath) I don't know what to do. (cries) Suppose I'll just have to get so drunk I pass out. (drinks, Danish) Lort. I don't know what else to do... (small sob) At least I know how to do that. (drinks)

Love you Jess. Sorry for being so drunk and miserable.

(clicks)

Scene 30.6

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

(upset and intermittently crying) Kat! I'm so sorry! That's horrible! Please don't do anything you don't want to do! I'm sure Johnno hasn't understood how you feel about this, talk to him, right? Please! Oh God I am freaking out over here. And *don't* get passing-out-drunk - that is dangerous in so many ways. *(deep breath)* I know you don't want me to but I am *this* close to contacting you mom. Get back to me, OK? Love you so much!

(clicks)

Scene 30.7

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

(very hungover, very tired, head is throbbing, almost whispering) Morning Jess. Or, afternoon I suppose. Don't contact my mother. Please. I am... all right. Or... Once this headache is over, I will be. Sorry for making you so worried. Still in the suite, Johnno's gone off to a birthday brunch with his friends, said I could stay a little longer. I- I don't actually remember what happened last night. I just tried to get as drunk as I possibly could. Turns out I can get very drunk. *(winces)* Well I am Swedish after all, aren't we supposed to be champions at drinking until we pass out? *(drinks water)* So... I don't remember, but... Apparently we did have sex last night. So *(deep breath)* I guess that's over with. I- *(retches)* Sorry! *(retches)* Have to run! *(retches)*

(clicks)

Scene 30.8

OLIVIA

(shocked, near whisper) Fuck. I- this is so dark. *(beat)* And I am *furious*. That is rape! Fucking rape. Yeah. No. Yeah. I suppose technically she could have appeared more lucid than she was and seemingly consented but... that is revolting. How could he not have understood the state she was in? I mean, most likely he did. Makes *me* want to vomit. *(beat)* Bloody hell, the content warning for this is going to *epic* *(unhappy laugh)* I think I'm going to get Tammi to listen to this whole thing before I decide what to say. So if you're unhappy with the content warning, it's Tammi's fault *(small laugh)*

No. Of course not, it won't be. But please do take care of yourself.
We have a resource page on the website, go to
y2Kpod.com[slash]resources. Right. I recorded a new outro for this
episode, it's going to sound offensively cheerful after all this I'm
afraid. Sorry about that. You know what's next, right? Trailer time.
Talk to you next week.

(Trailer for Relativity)

OLIVIA

If you know anything about my biological father - Mike - please let
me know, I would very much like to get in touch with him. (pause)

Please e-mail me at y2kpod@gmail.com, find me on Twitter or
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outro 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)