

## Episode 33: August 14-20, 2000

### CONTENT WARNING

(new ambience - in caravan)

OLIVIA

*(subdued)* Hello! Olivia here. This week we have a content warning for domestic violence. 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. So if you feel you need any resources like that, please go to [y2Kpod.com/resources](http://y2Kpod.com/resources) and hopefully you will find it 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 33.1

(caravan ambience)

OLIVIA

Hello, welcome to the Y2K podcast - still not back in Auckland. The field trip is in full swing, and I'm under a blanket in a caravan near Cloudy Bay, on the South Island. Made Tammi and our new friends Kai and Holly go for a walk so I could record... This trip has been incredible. I have learned so much I can't even begin to summarize it... And we've got to know our new classmates better too - kinda hard not to when you share a tiny caravan! We're going back to Auckland tomorrow, and I'll be sad to leave this beautiful place but also excited to get on with all the coursework. *(laughs)* Yes I am a nerd and I love learning. But you all knew that, right? Anyway. Last week, both Jess and Kat were heading to meet their partners' parents, and Tammi and I met Cassandra and got some more info on my bio-dad. Mike. *(hesitant but joyful)* Cassie described him and apparently I look a little like him. Oh, listeners, I really would like to find him. *(beat)* We shall see what Cassie and her friend Charlene come up with. *(smiles)* But for now, let's see what happens in today's voice mails. Welcome to the year 2000!

### Scene 33.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hey Jess. Just got back from Devon. It wasn't as bad as I feared. Johnno's father is really nice, if a little eccentric, and his husband was lovely. They were happy for me to call them by their first names, Richard and Sam. They live in a small house on the

outskirts of Exeter and have the most amazing garden. A really English garden, like you see in pictures, but very small to match the house. We had dinner in the garden and it was beautiful. I wanted to take a picture to send to my mother, but I hadn't brought my camera so I'll just have to describe it to her. Johnno's father - Richard - he is an artist in his spare time and the house is packed with his paintings from floor to ceiling, exploding with colours . Not so restful but interesting. Anyway. Then we went to Exmouth to see Johnno's mother and her husband. It was... very tense. They live in one of those houses that is very narrow and is squeezed in with the houses next door - looks very British to me, but maybe they have them all over. We stayed in the attic room, which used to be Johnno's growing up. I could see the sea from the skylight - so beautiful. Exmouth is a really pretty little town, and the beach is lovely. We didn't go swimming, though, not enough time. We had dinner Saturday night, and then watched TV, and took a walk and had a pub lunch Sunday morning, and then we had to catch the train to go back, thankfully. It wasn't that they were unfriendly really, it was just that there was SO MUCH TENSION and I could FEEL her vibrating with anger, or whatever other emotion was happening, but she said nothing. Or, said nothing about whatever she was feeling, I mean. She said plenty of things about the weather... Is this what they call the 'stiff upper lip'? People always say Brits are so reserved but I've found most really warm and friendly so I have never really understood that... (laugh) Why am I asking you? You're not British either! Anyway. It was not the easiest of week-ends but we made it through without any shouting which I think was a win. And I think Richard and Sam liked me, at least, so that's a start... How was your 'in-laws' visit? And how was the drive? Not too stressful I hope. I'm heading to Sweden next week, so we can have our birthday phone call! Johnno wasn't thrilled about me going away, so I'm only going for three days, but should still be good. And I'll get to talk to you! Cannot wait! (beat) I should get going, it's late here. Good night my dear! Oceans of hugs!

(clicks)

### Scene 33.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hey Kat, so good to hear your week-end was better than expected! So was mine, actually! The driving was all right, once I got used to it, and Rachel of course knew the way perfectly so I didn't have to navigate. Then we got there and I was so nervous! Also Rachel had warned me extensively about the smell - Rotorua smells weird because of geothermal something-or-other - but it was fine, and I got used to it very quickly. Anyways. I met her parents first, and we had dinner, and they really are wonderful. I completely see why Rachel is so kind and... so... secure I guess. She has this calm about her,

like she just knows she is loved and everything will be all right, and I... part of that is probably her being her own wonderful self but also I see where it is coming from. Her parents are so loving and supportive and... warm. Everything mine are not. (*near tears*)

And everything I want us to be to this kid. Who will have no grandparents from my side, of course, but Rachel's family is so numerous that I hope they will make up for it... Unless Mike turns up. But doesn't seem likely at this point - there is simply no trace of him, apparently. Which is both a relief and a worry. I want this child to have everything - including a connection with their biological father, if possible. But I also don't want them to have a father who will not take the responsibility seriously, so... He's an unknown factor, and you know how well I deal with the unknown...

(*laughs*) Anyways. I am getting off topic. We had dinner with Rachel's parents and were supposed to meet the rest of the family the next day, but her sister Nicola - who I'd met before - accidentally on purpose dropped by to borrow some milk, and then her other sister Deborah came by to sort out details for an upcoming babysitting thing, and then all of a sudden almost every one of Rachel's relatives were gathered in that small kitchen and I didn't even have time to get anxious because they just appeared and they were interested in me but not in a demanding way, you know? They were just warm and friendly and... accepting, without making a fuss about it. Like of course Rachel is pregnant by some random person and is raising the kid with this new girlfriend from Canada who is a student and will probably leech off Rachel's salary, that's all cool. It was... incredible. (*near tears*) And it went on like that, I think in the end I'd met everyone - from kindly grandmother to wailing baby, and they were all wonderful. Well not the wailing baby, but the poor thing had colic, so it wasn't their fault. Don't think Rachel realizes how lucky she is. I tried to tell her, and of course she gets it intellectually, but not sure she-

(footsteps during previous)

BRI

(knocks on door) Jess?

JESS

Come in Bri (*Bree*)!

BRI

Tia's going to- Hey, you all right?

JESS

I'm fine. (*small sniff*) Just telling Kat about Rachel's family.

BRI

Right. Hi Kat! (*beat, sits down*) They do sound great.

JESS

They really are. *(near tears)* They want you to come too, next time. Nicola said you're going to be like their sister, too, since you'll all be the baby's aunties, and they want to meet you.

BRI

*(touched)* That is nice. I would love to meet them.

JESS

And I'm just sitting here, thinking about our parents and... *(small sob)*

BRI

Hey, hey, it's all right... Shhh... It's all right.

JESS

*(calmer)* Yeah. I think it will be all right. We will make it all right.

BRI

Yes we will. With an army of aunties.

JESS

*(laughs)* Perfect! *(smiles)* Love you, sib.

BRI

*(smiles)* Love you.

JESS

*(smiles)* You came in here to ask something, I think?

BRI

Yeah. We're going to play Carcassone, you want in?

JESS

Sure! Can I be blue?

BRI

I'll go check. gets up Bye Kat!

JESS

Thanks! *(to KAT)* I'm off to play board games, apparently. I'm glad you're going to your mom's. And not only 'cause of the phone call, though - YAY! - but also because I think you do need a break, and I think you and your mom need some time to talk. I know you think she worries too much, but, you know, maybe she has reasons to be worried. All right?

BRI

distant We're all set up, Jess! You're green!

JESS

*(to BRI)* All right! Coming! *(to KAT)* Love you! Bye!

(clicks)

### Scene 33.4

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

(on mobile phone, outside)

KAT

(joyfully screaming) JESS! I GOT A PART IN EASTENDERS!! They just called me and I had to let you know right away! It's tiny, of course, but I AM SO EXCITED! (to someone else) Oh, shit! Sorry! (laughs, lower) Shit! Think I scared an old man walking by. It's a one-off, but I have lines and everything! It is finally my turn! They chose ME! Not any of the others - ME! I feel like singing and dancing for joy! (hums Eastenders theme) I am going to be in Albert Square! (unlocks door, inside apartment building, walks up stairs during following) I will play an eastern European woman being mistreated by some thug - not incredibly inspiring, but some definite misery to work with... I am so excited! OK, I'm almost home, I'll leave a longer message later. Love you! (click, but phone doesn't hang up, KAT opens door) Johnno?

JOHNNO

(yells, a little distant) In here, sweetie!

KAT

(footsteps, puts phone on table, excited) Guess what happened?

JOHNNO

I-

KAT

(interrupts) Oh, you'll never guess! I got a part in Eastenders!!

JOHNNO

(kisses KAT) That is wonderful sweetheart! (KAT laughs) Was it the Russian slag?

KAT

(a little taken aback but still so excited that it doesn't quite register) She's not a slag! She's a woman from Eastern Europe somewhere who's been treated horribly.

JOHNNO

(laughs) All right, whatever you say sweetheart. (kisses KAT) Well done.

KAT

Thanks sweetie. I can't wait to film it! Anyway - I should start packing.

JOHNNO

(kisses KAT, pulls her down to sit) Do you really have to go?

KAT

Well... I've got my ticket. And my mother is expecting me.

JOHNNO

*(sulky)* I know. I just hate when you're away.

KAT

*(smiles)* I'll only be gone three days.

JOHNNO

*(dramatic and means it)* It will feel like an eternity.

KAT

*(teasing)* You can handle it, you're a big boy!

JOHNNO

*(offended)* I am not a boy!

KAT

*(confused)* Of course not, it's just an expression.

JOHNNO

*(annoyed)* Sounds bloody patronizing. Like I'm a child.

KAT

*(taken aback)* That's not what I meant, I was just-

JOHNNO

*(interrupts, getting angry)* You never think, do you Kat? Could you think about someone else's feelings for a change?

KAT

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to-

JOHNNO

*(calmer, sighs)* You never mean to, but you just don't think about what you say. You have to be more considerate.

KAT

Right. I'm sorry. *(thinks)* But, you know, I- I do think about others. People always say I think about others too much.

JOHNNO

*(angry again, quickly)* Fuck, Kat, there you go again. It's all about you, isn't it?

KAT  
Actually, I-

JOHNNO  
(*mocking, quickly*) I - I - I - me - me - me - all you think about,  
isn't it Kat?

KAT  
I-

JOHNNO  
(*mocking laugh, quickly*) You can't stop can you? All about you?

KAT  
(*angry and confused and very near tears*) No! What are you saying?  
This is all so-

JOHNNO  
(*spiteful, quickly*) You going to cry now? To make it all about you  
again?

KAT  
(*very upset*) I can't talk to you when you're like this!  
(KAT gets up, tries to leave, JOHNNO gets up too, grabs her)

JOHNNO  
(*furious, yelling, quickly*) You are NOT leaving!

KAT  
(shakes herself loose, yelling) Yes I am!  
(JOHNNO throws KAT onto couch, KAT exclaims)

JOHNNO  
(*furious, yelling, quickly*) NO!  
(KAT gets up again to leave, JOHNNO slaps her, KAT exclaims in pain  
and falls back onto couch. Silence.)

KAT  
(*in shock*) What... I... You- You hit me.

JOHNNO  
It-  
(KAT stands up, grabs phone, runs to front door, feet in shoes)

JOHNNO  
Kat?

(KAT opens door, slams door shut, runs down stairs, panting, throws herself at door, outdoor ambience, runs wildly for a few moments, panting, slows, stops, out of breath, lets out the ugly crying, staggers over to low wall, sits)

KAT

*(mutters to herself)* Han får inte göra så mot mig. Får inte göra så mot mig. Får inte får inte får inte. Får inte. *(ugly crying again)*

(KAT grabs phone from pocket, presses button. Beep. Click.)

### **Scene 33.5**

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)  
(outdoor ambience)

KAT

*(crying)* Jess? I don't know what to do. Johnno and I argued again... Can't let him do this to me... I'm outside the apartment, don't want to go back in but... I don't know where to go. *(crying)* Fuck. Fuck fuck fuck fuck. I have to call my mother. *(sob)* I love you.

(clicks)

### **Scene 33.6**

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

*(upset)* Kat! Got your e-mail. Thank you. So glad you are going to your mom's a few days earlier. I just wish we could have whisked you away right there so you hadn't had to go back to your apartment. *(upset sigh)* But I guess it's good that you and Johnno talked. I... I am not sure he deserves that many more chances, you know? I- *(stops herself)* All right. I'll do as you ask and keep our conversation to e-mail until we can talk on the phone. Say hi to your mom for me, right? I love you. So much. Oceans of hugs.

(clicks)

### **Scene 33.7**

(caravan ambience)

OLIVIA

Right, I'm back. This was another tough week for Kat, obviously. If you are being hurt by your partner, please get help, call the police or talk to someone you trust. You could also check out our resource page, please go to [y2kpod.com/resources](http://y2kpod.com/resources). So, listeners, there are no voice mails for next week, I suppose they were doing e-mails

until that phone call. However, Tammi assures me there will still be an episode - I'm not quite sure how she's managing that. I suppose I get a week off! There's so much to do at uni, so I appreciate the time actually... I will talk to you again in two weeks.

(Trailer for The Carlötta Beautox Chronicles)

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](mailto:y2kpod@gmail.com), find me on Twitter or Instagram @y2kpod. Also check out our webpage, at [y2kpod.com](http://y2kpod.com), where you can find out more about the show, and, of course, listen to all the episodes. We are also on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify and wherever you get your podcasts. If you like Y2K, please tell your friends to listen too! And 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. I am so very happy and so grateful to our wonderful amazing patrons! We also have merch - check it out at [Y2Kpod.com\[/merch](http://Y2Kpod.com[/merch). Our amazing intro and 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)