

Y2K: Take 2

Episode 3: Johnno - age 32 - London - March 2002

CHARACTERS

JOHNNO, scene 3.1-3.5

JULIA, scene 3.1-3.5

PASSENGER, scene 3.2

EMMA, scene 3.3

Scene 3:0

KARIN

Hello everyone, Karin Heimdahl here, creator of Y2K. This is the Johnno episode, and for long-time listeners, it will come as no surprise that it needs a content warning. This time it is for emotional abuse, loud yelling and strong language. We have a resource page on the website, where we have tried to list as many hotlines and info-pages and support things we could find. So if you feel you need any resources like that, 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.

DIRECTOR

Places, please. We'll try again everyone. Right. Whenever you're ready - Take 2.

(MUSIC "Welcome to the Year 2000")

NARRATOR

Episode 3. Welcome to the year 2002. March. London, England. Johnno is 32 years old.

Scene 3:1

(INT. London restaurant, early evening. Low background conversation. Soft music. Footsteps on carpet as waiter walks away.)

JOHNNO

(to JULIA, a little too loudly) He was a bit of a wanker, wasn't he? As if I don't know the difference between a Riesling and a Pinot Gris.

JULIA

(hushes him slightly) Well, you got what you wanted in the end.

JOHNNO

Yeah. That's the main thing I suppose. *(grabs wine glass)* Cheers, sweetie! Happy six-month anniversary! *(BOTH clink wine glasses and sip)* Now, where was I before that waiter interrupted us?

JULIA

Um, you'd just described how they made it into the tunnels-

JOHNNO

(in better mood, a little louder than the environment requires)-Right, yes, so the whole thing explodes, but they just make it, and then they fight again, and the parents are killed, the bad guy socks it, and Arnold swoops up the kid and gets out of there, having saved the day. Great film.

JULIA

(smiles) Sounds exciting. *(teasing)* I thought you only liked indie films, sweetie?

JOHNNO

(slightly annoyed) I can enjoy an action film.

JULIA

(placating) I was only teasing.

JOHNNO

Well it wasn't very funny.

JULIA

All right. *(changes subject)* The fish is good.

JOHNNO

Yeah. *(petulant)* They put too much chili on it though.

JULIA

I like it that way.

JOHNNO

(annoyed) I *don't*.

JULIA

You could always send it back?

JOHNNO

No. Can't be arsed. That waiter is a wanker. Never coming here again.

JULIA

I thought you liked the starter?

JOHNNO

It was all right. There are better restaurants.

JULIA

Yeah. *(changes subject)* So, today I think I finally figured out the theme for my showcase at ICA.

JOHNNO

Oh yeah? What's it going to be?

JULIA

(passionate) I've been thinking a lot about birds in flight, that graceful movement, swooping, and dipping. I want to capture that.

JOHNNO

How's that going to work on clothes?

JULIA

I'm thinking sweeping, flowy fabrics, and maybe I can create some original prints. I'd like to get some dancers instead of regular models, so they can really make the garments **move**. In my mind right now it is all in black and white, with a graphic feel, you now?

JOHNNO

(not that interested) Yeah, sounds good.

JULIA

(vaguely disappointed, searches for something else to say) You excited about the gig tonight?

JOHNNO

(happier) Yeah, should be good. Great venue, and the main band is fucking brilliant.

JULIA

(smiles) I'm really excited - can't believe I haven't been to one of your gigs yet, after six months!

JOHNNO

Yeah, well, took some time for the band to get going again after Dobb left. Hedge's good, though. Bit full of himself, but all right.

JULIA

(slight laugh) They both have such funny names. They have to be nicknames, right?

JOHNNO

Yeah. Every musician's got a nickname. The odder the better.

JULIA

So what's yours?

JOHNNO
(vaguely offended) Well, Johnno.

JULIA
(laughs) 'Course. No odder than that.

JOHNNO
Yeah. *(beat)*

JULIA
Anyway. I'm really looking forward to it.

JOHNNO
(smiles) Looking forward to having you there. You can be my groupie!

JULIA
(laughs) Absolutely!

JOHNNO
(kisses JULIA, she kisses back) Julia, my Julia... Well, if you're really good, I'll... *(whispers the rest, about 15 words)*.

JULIA
(giggles, turned on) Johnno!

JOHNNO
Ah, you like it.

JULIA
(smiles) I do. And... *(whispers the rest, about 10 words)*.

JOHNNO
(huskily) You are my kind of girl.

(They kiss again)

JOHNNO
So, do we have time for... *(beat as he checks watch)* Yes, if we're quick. Let's find somewhere private, yeah?

JULIA
(smiles, excited) Oh yeah.

JOHNNO
(calls) Could we have the bill please?

(They kiss again, JULIA giggles)

(Fade out)

Scene 3.2

(INT. London bus. Upper level, quite full. JOHNNO and JULIA walk quickly up the stairs, sit down, BOTH are out of breath and giggle a little.)

JULIA

(rushed but happy) Can't believe we made it, that was some run!

JOHNNO

(elated) Well if you hadn't distracted me we wouldn't have taken so long.

JULIA

Or if **you** hadn't distracted **me**! *(happy laugh)* Well, we made it, that's the main thing! We'll be right on time for your gig.

JOHNNO

(smiles) We will. You are extraordinary, you know that?

JULIA

(smiles) You're quite something yourself.

(Quick kiss. Contented silence.)

JULIA

So I was talking to Chad the other day about the showcase, and he said he's doing projected images during his show. Apparently he-

JOHNNO

(suspicious) Who's Chad?

JULIA

Oh, he's doing the showcase too, I met him last week.

JOHNNO

What kind of name is 'Chad'?

JULIA

He's American.

JOHNNO

Is he gay?

JULIA

I don't know, that never came up.

JOHNNO

Like him, do you?

JULIA

Yes, I do. He's funny and kind and he's a great designer.

JOHNNO
Sounds like a wanker.

JULIA
Johnno! Be nice.

JOHNNO
(angry) You're the one who started talking about some other bloke
all of a sudden!

JULIA
What? Chad? Wait, are you jealous of Chad?

JOHNNO
(angry) Well you make me think I should be!

JULIA
Of course not. What? I can't even talk about other men?

JOHNNO
I didn't like **how** you talked about him.

JULIA
This is ridiculous, I'm not staying here *(starts to get up)*.

JOHNNO
(grabs JULIA to make her stay, shouts) No! Don't leave!

JULIA
(exclaims in pain) My arm! What are you doing?

JOHNNO
(tense) Sit down, everyone's looking.

JULIA
(sits down) You hurt me.

JOHNNO
I didn't mean to. You made me angry.

JULIA
Yeah. I noticed.

PASSENGER
(to JULIA) Are you all right, love?

JOHNNO
'Course she is.

PASSENGER

I asked *her*. You all right?

JULIA

(beat) Yeah. *(unhappy smile)* Thanks.

PASSENGER

OK then. You take care, you hear?

JULIA

I will.

JOHNNO

C'mon, let's go have fun at the gig, yeah?

JULIA

(doubtful) Yeah.

(BOTH get up)

(Fade out)

Scene 3.3

(INT. London pub, evening, plenty of people but not packed. Conversations all around, football match on TV in distance. Pub door opens, JULIA and JOHNNO enter.)

JULIA

(placating, a little fed up) -it all sounded good to me.

JOHNNO

(in a bad mood) It was shite. Whole thing was a bloody train wreck.

JULIA

(doesn't know what to say) If you say so.

JOHNNO

(annoyed) What the hell? You're supposed to- *(realizes they're in public, sullenly)* Thought you said it sounded good.

JULIA

It did, to me. I didn't hear anything wrong.

JOHNNO

Well, the amps were completely off. And the mix was all wonky - anyone could have heard that!

Listen, I- *(interrupts herself, changes tactic)* Why don't you grab that booth and I'll get the beer?

JOHNNO

Oh, all right. Guinness for me, yeah?

JULIA
Sure.

(JULIA walks away, we follow JOHNNO as he moves across the bar, gets bumped by passer-by)

JOHNNO
(mutters under breath) Excuse *you*. *(beat)* Wanker.

(Reaches booth, sits down. EMMA walks by, stops)

EMMA
(disbelief) Johnno?

JOHNNO
(surprised) Um, Emma?

EMMA
(wishes she could disappear) Hello.

JOHNNO
(gets up, moves to kiss EMMA's cheek) Hi-

EMMA
(gut reaction, steps backward) No! I mean, hi, hello, handshake.
Handshakes are good.

JOHNNO
(snorts) Oh, all right then. *(beat)* How are you? This isn't your usual neck of the woods, is it?

EMMA
Good. I'm good. *(beat)* No. I mean. Friends. *(gestures vaguely)* Over there. Cinema. Monster's Ball.

JOHNNO
Any good?

EMMA
Yeah, very good friends. Oh. Yeah. *(Shaky breath)* It was all right.
How are you?

JOHNNO
Good. Yeah. Good. I-

JULIA
(footsteps, friendly) Oh hello. *(sets two pint-glasses down on table)* Have we met? I'm Julia.

EMMA

Emma. Nice to meet-

JOHNNO

Julia's my girlfriend. *(gives JULIA a quick kiss)*

JULIA

(smiles) Fiancée, actually. Look!

EMMA

(stunned) Oh, right. Congratulations. That's nice. *(faintly)* Very nice... ring.

JULIA

Thank you. We've only been together for six months, but he swept me off my feet, you know?

JOHNNO

Yes. You're the girl for me.

EMMA

I should... I should get back to my friends. *(beat, polite but slightly pitying)* Nice to meet you, Julia.

JULIA

Likewise. *(EMMA walks away, JOHNNO kisses JULIA again, they sit)* So who was that?

JOHNNO

(in a better mood) Oh, friend of my ex.

JULIA

(surprised) Really? I thought she was off in Hollywood or something?

JOHNNO

(snorts) More like Canada or the like. Doesn't mean her friends aren't still here. *(sips beer, spits out)* What is this? I said Guinness!

JULIA

Sorry, no Guinness. The barman recommended that instead.

JOHNNO

Well what is it?

JULIA

I don't know. Some other stout.

JOHNNO

Didn't you ask?

JULIA

He said, but I forgot.

JOHNNO

(sighs) Very well, sweetheart. You do try. And at least you're pretty. That dress looks great on you.

JULIA

(smiles) Thanks. Still can't believe you found a vintage dress that fit me.

JOHNNO

Well, I-

JULIA

Sorry sweetie, off to the ladies. Be right back.

JOHNNO

All right. Don't be long.

(JULIA gets up, quick kiss, footsteps. JOHNNO sips his beer. EMMA returns, decisive footsteps)

EMMA

(high energy, bundle of nerves) I just have to-

JOHNNO

(surprised) Emma! What are you-

EMMA

NO! You shut up and listen.

JOHNNO

What-

EMMA

(high energy, high emotion, controlled volume to avoid making too much of a scene) I said shut up! I've worked up the courage now and I am not leaving 'til I've said it. *(breathes in)* You treated Kat like shit. You manipulated her, and lied to her, and tried to separate her from her friends, and her mother. *(breathes in)*

JULIA

(comes back, sharp intake of breath) Wha- *(stops to listen)*

(EMMA and JOHNNO don't notice JULIA)

JOHNNO

I don't-

EMMA

You made Kat doubt **everything** about herself. You made her think she was mean, and self-centered, and not clever. You made her leave a job she enjoyed because **you** couldn't control your jealousy. You

crushed her and broke her and made her believe she was worthless,
all so *you* could feel a little better about your disgusting self.
(*breathes in*)

JOHNNO
I have no-

EMMA
And on top of all that, you fucking hit her, and you probably did
worse things that she hasn't told me about. You are a useless piece
of garbage and you do not deserve Kat or any other partner. (*beat*)
Have you told your fiancée what you did to Kat? What you did to
Louise, and to probably whoever you were with before her? Does she
know what you are? A vile, selfish monster. A man so weak he has to
put others down to feel good about himself. You are a pathetic,
whiny, useless excuse of a human being. Go fuck yourself Johnno - I
hope I never see you again. (*in Welsh*) *Twll dy ffycin' din ti!* (*deep*
breath, football goal on TV in distance, many excited voices "GOAL")

JOHNNO
I don't speak French-

EMMA
Oh, and nice ring by the way. You couldn't even bother to buy a new
one? (*turns to leave, spots JULIA, shocked*) Oh. (*to JULIA*) Julia. I
am so sorry. (*walks away*)

JOHNNO
I... (*distracted*) That was quick.

JULIA
(*stunned*) What... what...?

JOHNNO
I mean, you were quick. Back from the loo.

JULIA
Oh. Long queue. Not worth it. (*shakes head*) Never mind. What *was*
that?

JOHNNO
I... She's just drunk. You know. She's Kat's friend, Break-ups are
always messy.

JULIA
That... that didn't sound like...

JOHNNO
Emma always was a high-strung bitch. Tried to accuse my mate Simon
of assault or something.

JULIA

(slowly, piecing it all together) Simon? I can imagine.

JOHNNO

Come on, let's go home. Beer's shite here anyway.

JULIA

(distracted, thinking) Yeah, all right. Let's go.

(They gather their things, walk toward door, just as pub door opens there is another goal on TV. "GOAL" They walk through, door swings shut.)

(Fade out)

Scene 3:4

(INT. London bus. Late evening. Upper level, empty. JOHNNO and JULIA walk up the stairs, sit down. Silence.)

JOHNNO

Can you believe that? What a bitch. *(silence)* Emma always was loopy, but this takes the cake. Screaming at me in a bloody pub. Eh? Jules?

JULIA

(thinking) Why would she do that?

JOHNNO

Told you. She's off her rocker. Always has been.

JULIA

All right, but... Some of what she said...

JOHNNO

(a little menacing) Yes?

JULIA

Some of what she said you did to... Kat... Some of that's... *(trails off into silence)*

JOHNNO

What? What are you saying?

JULIA

I need to think about this.

JOHNNO

(angry) What? What's there to fucking think about?

JULIA

(pause, quietly) Do you never do anything wrong?

JOHNNO
Course I do. Everyone does.

JULIA
OK, like what?

JOHNNO
Um... *(lost for words)*

JULIA
Yeah.

JOHNNO
(uncomfortable and aggressive) OK, I may not always have been the perfect boyfriend to my ex, but she wasn't exactly girlfriend of the year either.

JULIA
So what did you do?

JOHNNO
(mutters) She had this way of making me so angry, it was always all about her.

JULIA
So what did **you** do?

JOHNNO
I... Let's not talk about her anymore. She's ancient history. It's you and me now. And you... You are the best girlfriend I ever had. You are perfect.

JULIA
No. I'm not. No-one is.

JOHNNO
You are. *(tries to kiss JULIA, she evades)*

JULIA
Not right now, Johnno. Did you say the same thing to her?

JOHNNO
I...

JULIA
Johnno, did you... Was it true what Emma said? Did you hit your ex?

JOHNNO
(mutters) Not really. One time. Just a slap. I was angry.

JULIA

(feels like the world is falling apart but tries to keep it together) So you did hit her?

JOHNNO

Yeah. But she hit me too!

JULIA

OK, tell me about that.

JOHNNO

I was just sitting by my computer, we were talking, and all of a sudden she hit me on the back of the neck. I tell you, she was completely out of her mind...

JULIA

Right. And all the other things Emma said? You manipulated her and broke her down, was that true?

JOHNNO

Nah. Just some made-up shit. Girls always say a lot of crap after you've broken up.

JULIA

Do they? Or is it just **your** exes, Johnno?

JOHNNO

No, I...

JULIA

What will you say about me if we break up?

JOHNNO

We won't break up. We're great together.

JULIA

Are we?

JOHNNO

Oh, come on. You can't let this... Julia, what are you saying?

JULIA

I'm not saying anything right now. I need to think, that's all.

JOHNNO

Eh. Ignore them. You're my sweetheart. Isn't that enough? *(quick peck)*

JULIA

(quietly) I don't know.

JOHNNO

(not listening) Almost home! C'mon! (gets up, starts going down the stairs; JULIA follows more slowly)

(Fade out)

Scene 3:5

(INT. JOHNNO's apartment in Chalk Farm. JULIA is packing her clothes, walking back and forth between closet and duffel bag, folding and tucking. JOHNNO is sitting on the bed watching her.)

JOHNNO

(sulkily) I don't want you to go, that's all.

JULIA

Johnno, we've been over this so many times. I need a break. Going to stay with my parents for a few weeks will give me that. Plus I can work on my showcase designs without disturbing you.

JOHNNO

I like it when you're home. With me.

JULIA

I know, and that's nice, but I have to do this. For me.

JOHNNO

(annoyed) It's all about you, isn't it.

JULIA

Yes, this time it is about me.

JOHNNO

What about me? What about what I want, Julia?

JULIA

You will be fine. You have about a million things planned, it's not like you're going to sit here alone.

JOHNNO

No, but... I will miss you.

JULIA

I will miss you too. But we will be OK. *(beat)* It's only two weeks.

JOHNNO

It will feel like an eternity.

JULIA

You're a grown-up, you can handle it.

JOHNNO

(annoyed) Course I can.

JULIA

There you go. *(tucks final piece of clothing in, zips up bag)* Right.
All packed. Time to go. *(carries bag into hallway)*

JOHNNO

(gets up, follows) Can't we... Come here... *(kisses JULIA)*
Sweetheart.

JULIA

(evasive) Bye, sweetie. Have a good time while I'm gone. *(puts on jacket, starts putting on shoes but stops mid-way)* Hang on. *(goes quickly into bedroom again, we stay with JOHNNO)*

JOHNNO

(calls) Forget something?

JULIA

(comes back out, resumes putting on shoes) Yeah. Mobile. Found it.

JOHNNO

Good. Call me when you arrive, yeah?

JULIA

I will. *(quick kiss)* Goodbye Johnno. *(opens front door, steps out)*

JOHNNO

Bye, sweetie. *(door closes, mutters to himself)* Right. What now...
(walks slowly into bedroom; spots something on bed, exclaims) What?
What's that? *(picks up small box, opens it)* The ring... What? *(snaps box shut, takes a few steps toward hallway, calls)* Julia? Julia!
You *(realizes)* you forgot... your... ring... Fuck. FUCK! *(throws ring box in corner, punches wall)*

(Fade out)

Scene 3:6

NARRATOR

Thank you for listening to Y2K: Take 2. This episode was written and directed by Karin Heimdahl with sound design by Tal Minear. Our intro and outro music is created and recorded by Jake Haws, listen to his podcast "Making Music with Jake Haws" to hear more. This episode featured Adam Blanford as Johnno, Gemma Sheldrick as Julia, Nerys Howell as Emma and Fiona Thraille as the passenger. The drama school director was Sarah Golding, and the narrator Emma Laslett. For more information, please go to Y2Kpod.com or find us on social media @Y2Kpod If you enjoy the show, please consider supporting us on Patreon.com/Y2Kpod Please join us again next month when we meet Emma in 2012.

DIRECTOR

(claps hands) All right, thank you everyone. That's a wrap for today!

(MUSIC "Welcome to the Year 2000" - instrumental)