

Y2K: Take 2

Episode 11: Jess - age 45 - Delgany - November 2019

CHARACTERS

JESS - scenes 11.1 - 11.3 (Karin)
KATARINA - scenes 11.1, 11.3 (Janis)
ANTONIO - scene 11.1 (Alexandre)
BRI - scene 11.1 (Lorcan)
RACHEL - scene 11.2 (Felicity)
DELIVERY PERSON - scene 11.2 (David)
OLIVIA - scene 11.2 (Kirsty)

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 1:0

KARIN

Hello everyone, Karin here, creator of Y2K, and also the voice of Jess. This is Jess' episode, and I want to give you a content warning. This story deals with a couple separating after a very long relationship, and the emotions and anxieties that can bring out. If this is not for you right now, please skip it, and I hope you will come back next month for our series finale. 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\[slash\]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.

(INTRO MUSIC)

NARRATOR

Episode 11. Welcome to the year 2019. Delgany, Ireland. Jess is 45 years old.

Scene 11:1

(*INT. STUDY. Around 2 am. JESS has been crying for hours, but has now calmed down. She sits down in her office chair, a small sigh-sob escapes, and starts dialing an international number.*)

(ring tone, click)

KATARINA

(answering message, cheerful) It's Ina. Tell me a joke!

JESS

(distressed breath) Ina! It's me. Jess. I can't believe I'm leaving you a voicemail. Haven't done that in... Fuck. Just like all those years ago... Anyways. Do you even listen to voicemail anymore? Call me back, please? Or FaceTime? I know you're on location so who knows when you'll be off work but... I really need to talk to you. S-O-S. Right? Love you.

(Click. JESS is muttering to herself)

JESS

(continues) All right. Better message her too... Ina... need to talk... S-O-S...xo... Send...

(JESS' breathing is getting more rapid and shallow. She takes a few deep breaths.)

JESS

Bri *(Bree)*. Of course.

(speed dials New Zealand number. Dial tone. Ring tone. Rings for a long time.)

ANTONIO

(cheerful, slightly out of breath) Bri's *(Bree's)* phone, hello Jess!

(few distant dogs barking at ANTONIO's house)

JESS

(taken aback) Antonio, hi... *(default polite)* how are you?

ANTONIO

(reads Jess' tone of voice) I'm fine, but how are **you**?

JESS

I'm... We... *(holds back tears)* Not great.

ANTONIO

(carefully) Bri *(Bree)* just drove off to pick up some rescue pups, she must have forgotten her phone. *(beat)* She should be back in an hour or two.

JESS

All right. *(small sob)*

ANTONIO

(gently) Want to talk about it?

JESS

(sad laugh) You haven't been my therapist for... almost twenty years now.

ANTONIO

(smiles) That's right. *(gently)* And I can't be your therapist again. We're family now. But I can be your friend.

JESS

(smothered sob) Thank you.

ANTONIO

So, what's going on?

JESS

It's Rachel and I. We're... *(struggles to get the words out)* separating.

ANTONIO

(surprised) Oh. I'm very sorry to hear that.

JESS

(starts breathing quicker and more shallowly) Yeah. It's- *(sob)*

ANTONIO

Hey. Breathe, remember? *(JESS' breathing calms)* What happened?

JESS

Nothing, really. *(sad snort)* No drama.

ANTONIO

(smiles) You two never were very dramatic.

JESS

(smiles) No. Not like you and Bri *(Bree)*. No explosions. *(sad sigh)* Maybe that would have been better.

ANTONIO

(smiles) Probably not. Every relationship dynamic is different, and yours seems to have been working for a very long time.

JESS

Almost 20 years...

ANTONIO

(gently) So why **are** you separating?

JESS

It's probably been coming for a while, but I didn't see it. We... I suppose we want different things, now.

ANTONIO
Like what?

JESS
We started talking about moving back to New Zealand. Rachel's parents are getting old, and she wants to be near them.

ANTONIO
And you didn't want to go?

JESS
Oh, I was completely on board. I am happy here, but I can work anywhere, and I loved living in Auckland. We only moved 'cause I got that TV writing job.

ANTONIO
(*confused*) So...?

JESS
It- We- (*very sad*) Just fell apart.

ANTONIO
In what way?

JESS
We talked and talked... It's what we do. And... I'm comfortable here, and Rachel wants to build her life in Auckland, and... suddenly the question of *why* I should come with her popped up. It's... I've never even thought about it before. About not being with Rachel. Not for... twenty years. But the question was there, between us, and... It's like it opened up this chasm. Like everything was all right, and we were happily plodding along together like we've always done, and suddenly a rift opened up between us and... Vertigo, you know? It was (*voice breaks*) shocking.

ANTONIO
I can imagine. Do you think Rachel felt the same way? I mean, was it as shocking for her?

JESS
(*thinks*) I think so.

ANTONIO
When did all this happen?

JESS
Just now, a few hours ago. Feels like more.

ANTONIO
(*gently*) So it's very new. Still more conversations to be had.

JESS

Yes. Absolutely. *(cry-snort)* About all the practical stuff. *(sighs)*
Twenty years of stuff...

ANTONIO

Yes. And also... *(carefully)* About your relationship. You could
still end up changing your minds.

JESS

(surprised) I suppose. But... No. *(thinks)* It's like... the idea is
out there now. Can't be undone. It's grown too big and strong to
put back in the box. You know, sometimes when something has been
said, put into words, it can't be... unsaid.

ANTONIO

That makes sense. But I know what you are like. Don't close any
doors, not yet, all right?

JESS

(sad laugh) You **do** know me. Thanks. You are probably right.
(small sigh) I won't close any doors.

ANTONIO

Good. Do you- Are the emotions there, still?

JESS

I don't know. I mean, I love her. *(emotional)* I'll probably always
love her. But passion... all that stuff... we haven't been there in
a very long time. I don't know. Maybe that happens, in long
relationships?

ANTONIO

It can, definitely. And as long as everyone involved is OK with it,
it doesn't have to be an issue.

JESS

Right. And I don't think it has been, or at least not for me. We
haven't talked about it. Now, though, I'm thinking maybe we should
have. Maybe that is part of why... why **we** aren't... why...
(doesn't know how to continue)

ANTONIO

(carefully) Could be. Could not. You could talk about it. But there
doesn't have to be one specific reason, you know. Sometimes these
things just happen.

JESS

I know. I just never thought it would happen to me. To us. *(holds
back sob)*

ANTONIO

Of course not. I'm so sorry, Jess.

JESS

Thanks. *(beat)* Did I tell you- Or did Bri *(Bree)*? When Liv was here in July, she told us she's ace - asexual. I'll admit I had to read up on it - wanted to be supportive! You know what it means?

ANTONIO

Yes. And Bri *(Bree)* told me.

JESS

I don't... That's not what I am, but... At this point in my life I think I understand where she's coming from. That side of things doesn't have to be in focus.

ANTONIO

It doesn't. I love this conversation around identity and sexuality and what you want that young folks these days are so good at. When I was 20 it was more of a "Are you gay or straight?" and that was it kind of thing.

JESS

I know! Or even that was a stretch - being gay was so othered... And being bi - or trans - like Rachel and Bri *(Bree)* - wasn't even part of the conversation. Not that it's perfect now, of course, but... Some things do change for the better.

ANTONIO

They do. *(beat)* And no matter how you are feeling right now, you will feel better, and heal, and change.

JESS

I know. Life, right? *(sigh)*

ANTONIO

Exactly. You will go on.

JESS

I will. We will. Only not together. *(swallows hard)* I never imagined a future without her.

ANTONIO

Maybe you don't have to?

JESS

I- what do you mean?

ANTONIO

Maybe you can find a way to be friends, after a while.

JESS

Friends. Yeah. Maybe. Sometimes... Sometimes I think friendships are easier, you know?

ANTONIO

Bound to be. You rarely chafe at each other in the same way when you are friends.

JESS

The closer you are, the more you can hurt each other.

ANTONIO

Yes, but also- It doesn't even have to be that dramatic. The closer you are, the more strain you put your relationship under, whatever kind of relationship it is. Small, everyday annoyances can grow into bigger issues.

JESS

(small smile) Yeah, I remember that from various flatshares. *(hit by a sudden thought)* Do you know, I have never lived alone? Always with a room-mate, or flatmates, and then I moved in with Rachel.

ANTONIO

Well, maybe you will try that now.

JESS

Maybe I will.

ANTONIO

And maybe the boundaries between romantic and friend relationships don't always have to be rigid? As long as everyone's happy, you make the rules.

JESS

Happy. Yeah. That could take a while.

ANTONIO

I know.

JESS

Thank you for listening, Antonio.

ANTONIO

Any time. I'll-

(several dogs barking, quick footsteps on gravel outside, door opening, quick footsteps)

BRI

(distant, calls, rushed, happy, half-sings) Tonio? Forgot my phone! Need to call to get directions to- *(has reached Antonio)* Oh! You're on the- *(surprised)* You're on *my* phone?

ANTONIO

It's Jess. *(to JESS)* Want me to tell Bri *(Bree)*?

JESS

Thank you.

ANTONIO

(gently) Jess and Rachel are separating. I think she wants to talk to you. *(to JESS)* Take care Jess. *(hands over phone)*

BRI

(surprised gasp) Sib! *(puts down keys, purse on table)* Are you- How are you?

JESS

(voice breaks) Bri *(Bree)*. So great to hear your voice. *(small sob, breathing gets shallow)*

BRI

Oh sib. *(gently)* Hey. Breathe, remember?

JESS

(small laugh-cry) That's exactly what Antonio said.

BRI

(jokingly) Well every now and then he has good advice.

ANTONIO

(distant, smiles) I'm still in the room you know!

BRI

(slightly distant, to ANTONIO, smiles) I know. *(dogs bark)* Want to go feed the dogs?

ANTONIO

Sure. *(quick kiss, footsteps to other room)*

JESS

Should I call later? Did you have somewhere to go?

BRI

No, it's fine, it's fine. I'm picking up a new rescue pup but there's no rush.

JESS

All right.

BRI

So. Sib. Tell me what happened.

JESS

Nothing really happened, we just... *(sob)* fell apart... Oh Bri...

(Fade out)

Scene 11:2

(INT. KITCHEN. Afternoon. JESS and RACHEL are loading the dishwasher.)

JESS

(sighs) So. Rache. When should we tell her?

RACHEL

Should we call?

JESS

What if she needs a hug?

RACHEL

Oh shit. *(starts crying but holds back)* She probably will.

JESS

(sets down the plate she was holding) Yeah. You... Do *you* want a hug?

RACHEL

(almost crying) Yeah.

(BOTH make sad comforting noises as they hug, then release the hug)

RACHEL

(smiles) Remember how we used to say that with Liv when she was little? "Do you need a hug?" And all of a sudden that furious three-year-old just-

JESS

(smiles) Turned into a very small human in great need of a hug.

RACHEL

Yeah. Works for adults too. *(starts back up with the dishes)*

JESS

Hey...

RACHEL

What?

JESS

We can do the dishes later.

RACHEL

(smiles) Yes. *(closes dishwasher, sits at kitchen table)*

JESS

(sits down) Oh Rache... *(pause)* Are we... are we doing the right thing?

RACHEL

I... I don't know anymore.

JESS

Me neither.

RACHEL

We've been talking and talking and... I just don't see any other way than I did last night. I wish I did.

JESS

I wish I did too. *(long pause)* How did we get here? I mean... I know how we got here. I just- You've been my... family, my... my everything for almost twenty years and now...

RACHEL

(pause, small voice) We're still... family, you know. We'll always be family, 'cause of Liv.

JESS

I know. We will. We are.

RACHEL

We're still us, you know? We're no different than we were yesterday.

JESS

Aren't we? I feel like everything is different.

RACHEL

(sad smile) Maybe it is.

JESS

I don't know how to live with that.

RACHEL

(voice breaks) I don't- I will miss you, Jess.

JESS

Oh God, Rache. *(sob escapes)* How... I...

RACHEL

I keep feeling like I want you to comfort me, but-

JESS

Me too!

RACHEL
(slight laugh) Force of habit I suppose.

JESS
Yeah.

RACHEL
But it's not fair.

JESS
No. We'll have to find other ways.

RACHEL
Other people.

JESS
It really sucks.

RACHEL
It does.

JESS
(smiles) So, how is Maia?

RACHEL
They're good. They were digging a big hole. Tia had impulse bought a cherry tree.

JESS
(smiles) That is lovely.

RACHEL
It is. *(longingly)* It's spring there.

JESS
(sad smile) That's right.

RACHEL
Did you get hold of Ina?

JESS
No, she's on set. We texted. She's calling tonight. But Bri *(Bree)* sends her love.

RACHEL
(touched) Aw. She all right?

JESS
Yep. Still saving the world, one puppy at a time.

RACHEL

(smiles) Seems everyone's all right. *(beat, then slowly)* Everyone but us.

JESS

Yeah. *(pause)* Antonio reminded me that we will heal, eventually.

RACHEL

Seems pretty impossible right now, but good to hear all the same.

JESS

That about sums it up.

RACHEL

So, my lo *(love)*- *(sigh)* When *do* we tell Liv?

JESS

We won't see her until Christmas.

RACHEL

Unless we make a trip?

JESS

The very special "Hello we're separating" and by the way do you need any laundry taken care of trip?

(BOTH laugh a little)

RACHEL

You're right. That's not fair either.

JESS

It'll be awful whenever we do it.

RACHEL

Won't it ruin Christmas?

JESS

Maybe. But we can't pretend once she gets here, so...

RACHEL

Christmas it is. Will be strange pretending over the phone.

JESS

Yeah. But it's only for a month.

RACHEL

(surprised) That's right. It's almost December. *(beat)* We'll work through it.

JESS

We will.

(doorbell rings, BOTH make startled exclamations)

RACHEL
Are you expecting anyone?

JESS
No. *(gets up)* But I'll get it.

RACHEL
Thanks.

(Footsteps to door, open)

DELIVERY PERSON
(cheerful) How ya doin'? Got a package here for *(reads)* 'Jessica Shaw', is that you?

JESS
Yes, that's me.

DELIVERY PERSON
Grand. If you'll just sign here...

(JESS signs on electronic device)

DELIVERY PERSON
Beautiful day, isn't it ? Not often we get sunshine in November!

JESS
(distracted) Um, no. *(beat)* Guess I hadn't noticed. There, is that all right?

DELIVERY PERSON
Yeah. *(hands over package)* There you go. Right, I'd best crack on.
Bye now. *(whistles, footsteps down driveway)*

JESS
Thanks. *(calls)* Bye.

(JESS closes door, footsteps back to kitchen, sets package on table, starts opening)

RACHEL
What is it?

JESS
(surprised) It's from Liv. Why would- *(opens)* Oh!

(surprised reaction from RACHEL)

JESS

(continues) There's a card *(picks up and opens card, reads)* 'Mum, congrats on the British Book Awards nom! xo Liv' *(pulls out chair, sits down)* This... She sent me chocolate.

RACHEL

She's a good one, all right.

JESS

It's almost like she knew we'd need cheering up today. I wonder

(JESS's mobile vibrates)

JESS

(picks up phone, continues, to RACHEL, quickly) It's Liv. Should I...?

RACHEL

(sadly) No.

JESS

You're right. *(deep breath, small beep as answers phone)* Liv!

OLIVIA

(on phone throughout, excited) Mum! You got my surprise!?

JESS

I did. Just now. *(confused)* How did you know?

OLIVIA

(laughs) They sent me a delivery confirmation.

JESS

Of course. Thank you darling. It was a wonderful surprise.

OLIVIA

Oh, good! I saw those and I know you like them.

JESS

I do. I love them.

OLIVIA

I thought you and mama could have some to celebrate your nomination - it's a pretty big deal.

JESS

It is. And I'm really happy about it.

OLIVIA

Right. *(someone calls in distance)* I have to run - love you!

JESS
Love you, Liv.

OLIVIA
Kiss mama for me! *(click)*

JESS
I- Right.

RACHEL
She off somewhere?

JESS
Yeah. Didn't say where. She... sends her love.

RACHEL
Good. Right. *(voice breaks)* This is so hard.

JESS
(tears in eyes) Right there with you Rache, *(quietly)* Right there
with you. *(lets out breath)*

(Fade out.)

Scene 11:3

(INT. Study, late at night. JESS is typing on her laptop.)

JESS
(mutters) Aaargh... another 'just'. Delete...What is it with that
word... *(sharp intake of breath, stops typing)* Did *not* remember
this scene was in here. *(small sob)* Fuck. Happy couple being
happy... Ugh. *(breathes)*

(Mobile vibrates, JESS picks it up, slight beep)

JESS
(continues, all the emotion) Kat!

KATARINA
(on phone throughout, gently) Oh Jess, you haven't said Kat in
years. This is serious.

JESS
(smiles) Sorry. Ina. My wonderful Ina. *(lets out breath)*

KATARINA
How are you?

JESS

Bad. Trying to distract myself with editing but it's not going very well.

KATARINA
(*gently*) OK. What do you need?

JESS
(*pause*) Um. (*thinks*) No-one's asked me that. I... I need to know that you are there.

KATARINA
I am. I am always here.

JESS
I know. Good to hear all the same.

KATARINA
(*gently*) Anything else?

JESS
(*small sob*) Listen?

KATARINA
Of course. (*beat*) Do you want to come visit?

JESS
I don't even know where in the world you are.

KATARINA
(*smiles*) Vancouver. I'd come to you, but we're shooting for another three weeks.

JESS
Huh. Back to Canada. (*beat*) Well why not. I'll check flights.

KATARINA
Good. I'm renting an apartment, so you can stay with me. And I can cook all your favourites.

JESS
Thank you. It'll be just like old times.

KATARINA
(*smiles*) Yeah. (*beat*) So. I am listening.

JESS
(*small sob, then deep breath*) Well. Rachel and I started talking about moving back to New Zealand, and we...

(*fade out*)

Scene 11:4

NARRATOR

Thank you for listening to Y2K: Take 2. This episode was written by Karin Heimdahl, and directed by Sarah Golding. 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 Karin Heimdahl as Jess, Janis Westin as Katarina, Alexandre Laguna as Antonio, Lorcan Annie Sherry as Bri (Bree), Felicity Boyd as Rachel, David Ault as the delivery person and Kirsty Woolven as Olivia. 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 for our series finale when we meet Olivia in 2021.

DIRECTOR

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

(OUTRO MUSIC)