

Episode 45: November 6-12, 2000

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 45.1

OLIVIA

(excited) I have news! Very- very exciting news! However, I'm going to make you wait until after the voicemails to tell you. (laughs) But they seem to be quite short this week. I will tell you that I am talking to an exciting guest at the end of the show, so make sure you stick around for that. Right. Last week Kat and Johnno argued again and Rachel was in hospital. Welcome to the year 2000!

Scene 45.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Jess! Got your e-mail! When you have a minute, please let me know what's going on. On here, or e-mail, I don't care. You said it's not critical, but that's all I know. I'm worried. And I am crossing every finger and toe that Rachel and the baby are fine and this is all just a scare. OK? I love you so much!

(clicks)

Scene 45.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

(from cell phone, hospital waiting room)

JESS

Kat! It's all right! At least for now. They've put Rachel on bed rest - that means she has to stop working entirely until the baby comes. So that's another... two months. She's going to stay in hospital for observation for a few days, but after that she can hopefully come home. (breathes) Think I haven't taken a deep breath in two days. (breathes) They think it will all be fine, as long as she rests. Oh Kat. I thought... For a moment there I thought I might lose them both and I- (breathes) just the thought of it was like I was in freefall. Still is. But all will be fine. Oh god. Loving this much opens up for so much potential pain... Yeah. (beat) Getting dizzy here for a minute. Whoa. Slowing down. (to someone further away) I'm all right. Thanks. (to KAT) Sitting down. Guess I haven't been eating much lately. Other things going on... Bri (Bree) is meeting me later to drag me out for dinner. (smiles) She knows me so well. She's been here much more than she should these past few days

- she has exams coming up. But she doesn't seem worried, so I think she'll be fine. I'd better get back to Rachel. Might keep you updated through e-mail this week - hard to find a quiet spot in the hospital for voicemail recording. Thank you for being there. I miss you. I love you. Oceans and oceans!

(clicks)

Scene 45.4

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

(from cell phone, outdoor ambience)

KAT

Oh Jess, I am so relieved! Thanks for letting me know. Give Rachel a hug for me, OK? I know we've never met but I feel like we have... Of course, e-mail is fine. Whatever works for you. And take care of yourself, please! You won't be any use to Rachel if you faint from hunger and exhaustion. OK? (*deep breath*) I'm... walking along the south bank... Should be at work, but... Skipped it today. Needed some breathing space. It's cold but... still nice somehow. Hardly anyone else out in the middle of the day. I spent the morning in Tate Modern - I really love that all the museums are free. (*smiles*)

They have such... wacky... art installations. I spent about 20 minutes all alone in a dark room watching a video performance where a man was standing on Hampstead Heath inhaling helium gas from balloons and singing (*sings*) "There's a God for Little Children" - it was hilarious! I love when art doesn't take itself too seriously.

Suppose I needed to laugh... I know I shouldn't skip work. Means even less money. (*sighs*) There never seems to be any time to *think* that's all. I keep running and running faster and faster and...

Yeah. I've been doing this... sometimes. Just to get some space for... me. There's a cinema just off Leicester Square that shows matinées for only a pound - you know, where we went to Sing-Along Sound of Music? Finally got to see Billy Elliott there the other day. Loved sitting there in the dark with no-one knowing where I was... There was hardly anyone else there. Felt like it was just for me. And I've been going around the National Portrait Gallery a few times, too. Ugh. Jess... (*anguish*) What is happening with me? I don't recognize myself. I don't... I'm not... My reaction to things, I... feel like I'm not... there... (*sighs*) It's hard to explain. I should be getting home. Supposed to be done at work in a bit, and it's a long walk from here to Chalk Farm! Yeah, I'm saving on bus fares again... I'm walking whenever the weather is OK. Good exercise, really. Take care, my dear. I love you.

(clicks)

Scene 45.5

OLIVIA

(*excited*) Hello again - I am back! And very soon I'll be talking to Cassandra again - she's found Mike! I am so excited and nervous I don't quite know what to do with myself. So, over to Cassie, hang on while I connect.

(connecting sounds)

OLIVIA

(*continues*) Cassie? I can see you but I can't hear you! (*beat*) Can you hear me? (*beat*) OK, turn on the mic. Down to your left... yeah, down there!

CASSANDRA

-don't know if that-

OLIVIA

That works! Hello!

CASSANDRA

Olivia! Hello! Thank goodness!

OLIVIA

We probably should have practiced that!

CASSANDRA

(*smiles*) Yeah but more exciting this way!

OLIVIA

(*laughs*) Also there wasn't time - we only decided this (*beat*) about an hour ago.

CASSANDRA

True!

OLIVIA

(same time as CASSANDRA) So, I only know what was in your e-m-

CASSANDRA

(same time as OLIVIA) So let me tell you what I found out-

(*BOTH laugh*)

OLIVIA

Go ahead! From the beginning, please.

CASSANDRA

So I told you Charlene and I had got as far as Melbourne, right?

OLIVIA

Yes - and I realize I've been mispronouncing Melbourne up until now, sorry about that! (*tries it out*) Melbourne. Melbourne. All right.

CASSANDRA

(*laughs*) Well, we started writing to all the libraries in Melbourne explaining that we were looking for Mike, and describing what we knew. Didn't say anything about you, of course, just that someone was keen to get hold of him. Of course, in twenty years, staff changes a lot, so for some of them we got the response back that there was no-one left who had been working there in 2000. But one librarian at the North Melbourne library recalled that there had been a Mike working briefly at the State library around that time.

She - her name is Jane - tried to get in touch with a retired colleague of hers, called Ian. Now Ian was on an extended holiday in Indonesia at this time - lovely country, Indonesia, I remem-

OLIVIA

(*gently*) So I guess Ian came back?

CASSANDRA

(*laughs*) Sorry! Yes Ian came back to Melbourne a few days ago, and got Jane's message. He remembered Mike well, turns out they used to volunteer at the same homeless shelter even after Mike had quit working at the library, so they knew each other quite well, and they kept in touch. And he knew Mike's full name - turns out it's John Michael Wilson, the 'John' is what messed up all of our searches.

OLIVIA

(*stunned*) Wow.

CASSANDRA

After that it was easy. He lives outside Melbourne. In the Dandenongs. I'll send you all the contact info.

OLIVIA

I- He- We- (*pause, near tears*) You found him.

CASSANDRA

(*smiles*) We did.

OLIVIA

I can't believe it. After all this time...

CASSANDRA

(*gently*) I can imagine... Must be a lot to take in all at once.

OLIVIA

Yeah. I can... do you have his e-mail address?

CASSANDRA

Yes. Just e-mailed you everything.

OLIVIA

Thank you. Thank you so much, Cassie.

CASSANDRA

Oh, you're welcome. It was my pleasure. *(beat)* So... what is your next step?

OLIVIA

I... I am going to e-mail... Mike. Huh. I'd never thought I'd get there.

CASSANDRA

Now you are. I'll let you get on with it.

OLIVIA

(focused again) Yes. Thank you. You've been such a help.

CASSANDRA

No worries. Let me know how it goes.

OLIVIA

I will! And I'll let the listeners know too. Bye Cassie, thanks again!

CASSANDRA

Take care, Olivia. Bye!

(Trailer for Sidequesting)

OLIVIA

Please e-mail me at y2kpod@gmail.com, find me on Twitter or Instagram @y2kpod. Also check out our webpage, at 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)