

Episode 46: November 13-19, 2000

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 46.1

OLIVIA

(nervous) Hello everyone, Olivia here. I had my last exam yesterday, and the term's ending. It is almost summer and it is glorious. Tammi and I have some fun trips planned before we head back to winter and the northern hemisphere in a few weeks... I... (*really nervous*)

After the voicemails I will be speaking to... someone. I'm pretty sure you can guess who. I... I feel like I would jinx it if I said his name. (*sighs*) Silly, I know... There have been some e-mails back and forth and... yeah. It is all very exciting, but right now I am so nervous I just feel nauseous. Uh. Better get to it. Last week Rachel was put on bedrest, Jess forgot to eat, Kat skipped work and I talked to Cassie and got those long-awaited contact details.

Welcome to the year 2000!

Scene 46.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Hey Jess, good to hear Rachel is doing better. Must be really hard for her to not be allowed to do anything... Johnno and I had a bit of a strange evening yesterday. Or I did, mostly. We were at the Soho Itsu, you know I love the conveyor belt sushi and the drinks robot - it is such **fun**! Plus really tasty. Anyway. We were there with a big group as always, and all of a sudden Johnno's ex shows up, Louise. She's there with her boyfriend. It's awkward, of course. Don't think they've seen much of each other since they broke up. And also for me, I have been so jealous that it was almost unreal to meet her and see her as an actual person. But it was brief, and they went to their own table, of course. Before we left, I went to the loo, and... Louise was there. I'm not sure, but it was almost as though she'd been waiting for me. We said awkward hellos, and...

Then she said 'If you ever need to talk, let me know.' I said 'OK... thanks.' And then she said, quickly 'It's not you, you know. It's him. Remember that.' And then she left. I... I didn't tell Johnno. I

mean, why would I. But I think she was trying to support me, somehow. And that's nice, I suppose. It was just so **strange**. I mean, she has no reason to. What am I to her, you know? (*pause*)

Right, what else... We're going to Barcelona over Christmas. My mother will be disappointed, but it's actually nice to not have to figure out if we should go Sweden or Devon. And, if Devon, who we should stay with. Barcelona will be nice and tension-free, I hope.

Plus it's a little warmer than here, and lovely food, and shopping... Should be good. I real-

(00s cell phone)

KAT

(continues) Number withheld, I should get that, hang on! (beep) Hello?... OK, yes, hello!... Oh... Yes, absolutely... That would be great!... I would love to!... OK... Yes... Thursday.... Let me check my calendar. (picks up calendar) Yes, that works!... (laughs) See you Thursday!... OK, thanks! (click) Jess! I have an audition for Doctors! (laughs) They saw me on EastEnders, isn't that amazing? It's a recurring role for a couple of episodes, they're sending me a script. This is so cool! OK, wow! Keep your fingers crossed on Thursday afternoon! I should go - take care of yourself, and of Rachel, and let me know when you are both home again. Oceans and oceans!

(clicks)

Scene 46.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

CLAIRE

(very uncomfortable) Jess. So. (blurts out) I'm in this program. (pause) There's a whole lot of shite about God or a "higher power". Been questioning that, let me tell you. Yeah. (pause) I've been going through all these steps, and... (surprised) It's been helpful, I think. All kinds of steps... And one of the steps is "making amends". (unhappy laugh) That's the one I'm on. Don't even know what that means, really. Make amends. To add something at the end... An amendment. (exaggerated US accent) My first amendment rights... (more serious) Or yours, I suppose. (pause) It's Claire. Did I say that? Probably did. (pause) Yeah. So. Right. Making amends. (pause) Look. I- (pause) You- (pause) Ugh. This would be so much easier if I was drunk. (sighs) Look. I know I... hurt you. I never meant to. It just sort of happened. With Rose, I mean. I knew it would hurt you. A lot. So I didn't tell you. And then it happened again, and I... Didn't tell you. Again. And then... (long pause) I could feel you drifting away from me, you know? I knew you were thinking of moving away from acting, of doing a master's somewhere. I felt like I... (emotional) like I wasn't enough for you anymore. Like you were going to move on to bigger and better... (sad smile) And you did. Much better than me, I am sure. Rose was... there. (beat) Awful thing to say, right? (sighs) I hurt her too. Next on my list of amends... Ugh. (pause) I bugged it all up. (silly voice) 'Bugging it all up: a Classic Claire Story'. (beat) I should have told you about Rose. I was- I couldn't bear it. Your pain. Disappointment. So I let you find out later, when I didn't have to see it. That... that was really shitty. (pause) So I am trying to

say I am... (*beat, can't get the word 'sorry' out*) yeah. About all of it. And if there is anything I can do to... (*small laugh*) make amends I suppose... you let me know, right? I am working on... being better. Kinder. More like you, really. (*laughs*) Don't get smug now! (*serious*) Take care, Jess. Bye.

(clicks)

Scene 46.4

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hi Kat, that is so exciting! I am sending every good vibe your way for the audition today! I know you will be fantastic. So Doctors is that new show, right? Haven't seen it of course, but anything TV would be great for your career. You are getting there, Kat! That door you were talking about is opening! And even if you don't get it, it's still a really good sign that they called you. I am so happy for you. (*beat*) Rachel and I are both home. She doesn't literally have to stay in bed all day, she can move around a little, but she is mainly going from bed to couch and back again. And the doctors seem confident that as long as she keeps doing that, all will be well. She is... wonderful. You'd expect her to be cranky about all this, and yes of course she snaps sometimes - she's only human! - but generally she is taking it as it comes and keeping her spirits up. She's taken up crocheting. She'd never done it before, Maia is teaching her. But she is great at it - I would probably just get frustrated at having to keep track and count and make sure the yarn doesn't tangle, but she's already made a hat for the baby - it is adorable. Speaking of baby gear - we are finally biting the bullet and getting some. We wanted to wait - no, **I** wanted to wait. Felt like jinxing it somehow. But we can't wait forever, so here we are. I am picking up a crib today - I am getting it used - but it is unassembled so Maia's coming over to help me put it together. (*laughs*) That is such a **dad** thing to be doing, right? Assembling a crib. (*laughs*) Assembling a crib and being bad at it! Ready-made joke right there. But this 'dad' has friends to help, thank goodness. Let's see... Have you been keeping up with the Lord of the Rings news? They're filming in New Zealand - you probably know that! - and every so often the papers are full of some story about the filming. Mainly about the impact on the environment, which I hope they address, but I'm even more interested in the movies themselves - if I still wanted to be an actor I would definitely try to get in there as an extra, just to see what's going on... But I am **way** too busy - have to take care of Rachel and prepare for baby but also I am **writing**. Thanks for your last revision feedback, as always you know just how to push me in the direction I need to go. I'm on the final stretch - everything is there, in place, I just need to make sure it all fits and makes sense and do some polishing. And then I'll be done. It's been such a long writing project that I can't

believe it is almost over. Longest writing project ever for me... First of many, I hope. I'm... I'm sending the screenplay off to some producers. Feels completely nerve-wracking, but how else am I going to know if anyone likes it? Eeeek! Anyways... Um, Claire left a message again. It was... She apologized. Without actually saying she was sorry, typical Claire-style. It was hard to listen to. But also good. The only thing... She seems to be in a twelve-step program of some kind. I never realized, but she must be dealing with... a drinking problem? Have you heard anything about this? You've seen her more recently than I have. Of course, she was always a bit weird about alcohol, and always got very drunk, but... Didn't suspect that it was a serious problem. Could have escalated while she was with Rose, I guess. Rose always was a party-er. I don't know. But if she is getting support, that is great. I'll e-mail her. I'd better go, my dear. Let me know how your audition goes - so exciting! I love you.

(clicks)

Scene 46.5

OLIVIA

(very nervous) I'm back. And I am talking to (beat) Mike. Calling him right now. (online call ringtone) H-Hello?

MIKE

(nervous) Hello? Olivia?

OLIVIA

Hello. (pause)

MIKE

(same time as OLIVIA) Nice to-

OLIVIA

(same time as MIKE) How are-

(BOTH laugh nervously)

MIKE

Sorry.

OLIVIA

It's fine. Um, so you agreed for me to record this, but just let me know if you want me to cut anything out.

MIKE

(warmly) I'm sure it's all right. Nice to hear your voice.

OLIVA

Yours too.

MIKE
Yeah.

OLIVIA
So we've e-mailed, but... I have so many questions.

MIKE
Of course. I do too. But you go first.

OLIVIA
(*this is the big one*) Did you know about me?

MIKE
No. Not until you e-mailed. (*beat*) I had no idea. I would have... I don't know. Tried to be involved somehow.

OLIVIA
Right. That's nice... (*near tears*) Or... I don't know what to say.

MIKE
Hey. Hey, it's all right. This can't be easy for you.

OLIVIA
Yeah.

MIKE
Shall I just talk a bit?

OLIVIA
(*small sniffle*) Yes, please.

MIKE
Well. (*beat*) I live outside Melbourne, as you know. In the Dandenongs, in a suburb called Olinda, in a house, with Scott. We've been together about ... eleven years at this point. (*small laugh*) Like an old married couple, really. Not that we've got around to getting married yet. Maybe one day, if we can get our heads together to organize it. Um... I'm a social worker, I work in a hospital, mainly with families and young folk. Scott is a PE teacher. We have two dogs, Charlie is a golden retriever and Gus is a blue heeler. (*beat*) You like dogs?

OLIVIA
(*smiles*) I do. Never had one, though. Mama's allergic.

MIKE
That's a shame. (*beat*) Your ma- (*stops himself*) You could get one now you're all grown up if you wanted.

OLIVIA

(a little surprised) Yeah. Maybe I could. Need to figure out where I'm going to live first, I suppose.

MIKE
You're in Auckland, right?

OLIVIA
Yes. But only until June next year. Exchange student.

MIKE
(surprised) Exchange- From where?

OLIVIA
Birmingham. England. I grew up mostly in the UK.

MIKE
Oh. I never- I thought you grew up in Auckland. (smiles) That explains your accent. But wait... your- Rachel is Kiwi, right? But your other mum - oh, so she is British?

OLIVIA
Jess. She's Canadian.

MIKE
That- (laughs) My head's spinning now!

OLIVIA
(laughs) It is pretty confusing when you think about it. (beat)
(slight paper rustling) I- I made a list. Things I wanted to ask you.

MIKE
(smiles) That is wonderfully organized. All right. Go for it.

OLIVIA
Having a list made me feel less nervous. All right. (nervous) Do you have any children?

MIKE
Apart from you? No.

OLIVIA
(nervous) Did you ever want any?

MIKE
(deep breath) We talked about it. And we never decided against it, more like... I don't think either of us were too keen on the chaos of babies. Plus we both meet so many young folk through our jobs that maybe we felt we could do more good that way... Not that we ever talked about it like that. Also for us to become parents there would be a fair bit of admin involved, which is not our strong suit.

(*small laugh*) We haven't even managed to get married, and it's been legal in Australia for three years...

OLIVIA
(*yearning*) Sounds like you're happy together.

MIKE
(*smiles*) We are.

OLIVIA
(*slight paper rustling*) And... Are **you** happy?

MIKE
That's a big question. (*thinks*) Yes. I love my work. And we- We have a great group of friends. Scott and I are at that point where we've worn down each others rough edges a bit, you know? We're very... comfortable. Spend a lot of time outdoors, in the yard, or walking the dogs... (*beat*) What do **you** do for fun?

OLIVIA
Well, there's this podcast (*small laugh*)... And I love being outdoors, too. I've been on some incredible hikes here in New Zealand.

MIKE
Oh, you should come to Melbourne! Great- (*backtracking*) I mean... If you want, you'd be very welcome to come visit. I know it's a fair distance, but...

OLIVIA
I... Really?

MIKE
(*warmly*) Yeah. Really.

OLIVIA
(*slowly, smiling*) I think I'd like that. We're - my friend Tammi and I - are flying home mid-December. Haven't booked my ticket yet. Maybe... If you want?

MIKE
Sure! Just let me know. And you are both welcome, if you like.

OLIVIA
Thank you. (*beat*) I'll save my questions for when we can talk face to face, I think.

MIKE
All right. Looking forward to it.

OLIVIA
Yeah. So am I. Is this... shall we stop there for today?

MIKE

All right. Nice talking to you, Olivia.

OLIVIA

You too. I'll e-mail you.

MIKE

Great. All right. Bye!

OLIVIA

Bye! (online call disconnect sound, *deep breath, slightly dazed*)
That was Mike. He was nice. And I am going to visit him, hopefully.

Him and Scott and the dogs. Yeah. I have to go find Tammi, and figure out flights. Talk to you next week, listeners. And thank you, all of you who tried to help me find him. I can't respond to every e-mail, but I do read them all, and your support through this has been absolutely brilliant. Especially thank you to Cassie, of course, and Charlene, for spending so much energy trying to help this strange girl from a podcast... You really are incredible. Thank you so, so much.

(Trailer for Me and AU)

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)