

Episode 52: December 25-31, 2000

(INTRO MUSIC)

Scene 52.1

OLIVIA

Hello dear listeners, welcome to the final episode of the Y2K podcast. I am still in Ireland, and after today's voicemails, I am going to share with you a conversation I had last night with my parents, and also *(beat)* a surprise guest. So this will be a long episode, because there are lots of voicemails too. Suppose we'd better get going! Last week Jess got a meeting in London about her screenplay, Kat spent Christmas in Sweden, and found out she was up for a film role, and Johnno left a long message saying he wanted to try again with Kat. *(deep breath)* For the very last time - welcome to the year 2000!

Scene 52.2

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

(nervous) Hi Jess, I'm back in London. In Lee's room this time.
(small laugh) Which used to be my room, of course. Just like old times. Not really, though. Feeling... a little more myself after a few days with my mother. She can be a little much sometimes, but she's been great - really listening. And not digging too deep... Um.
(beat) Johnno sent a voicemail yesterday. *(disbelieving)* On here. He's- he wants to see me. And he.... He wants to try again. He says he is ready to change. *(pause)* He says he loves me. *(pause)* I haven't dared tell anyone but you. *(longing)* But of course I want to see him. And of course I... I love him too. So if there's a chance... I think we deserve that chance. I am meeting him tonight. In a pub. Neutral territory, you know. Oh Jess I am so scared. But what if I can have it all back? What if he can change? I want that so much. I know you have your reservations about him but... Things have been hard but also - we've been so happy. I just want that again. I love you.

(clicks)

Scene 52.3

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Oh Kat. I get it. And I am sending so many hugs your way. Just be careful, all right? If you do decide to get back together, take it

slow, you know? (*breathes*) I'm not- I can't hide the fact that this makes me very anxious. But you have to do what makes you happy. Please make sure he makes you happy, all right? (*breathes*) Hey, at least I will see you soon, right? And we can talk properly about all this. And- (*beat*) So, I'm flying in on the morning of the 31st, UK time, probably be completely jetlagged and confused, but Shirin said you are having some sort of New Year's dinner thing, so I'll definitely stay awake for that. Maybe I can have a nap in your room - Lee's room - if I need to? Can't very well nap on the couch mid-day... Feels surreal that I'll be back in Wood Green for New Years again. Remember last year? Yeah. So much... Everything. (*beat*) Rachel is doing well, no change, really, so that is good. And Bri (*Bree*) is moving in... but you know all this. Let me know how everything goes, all right? And - you didn't mention the movie - when are you meeting the movie people? I want to know everything. I love you so much. Oceans and oceans!

(clicks)

Scene 52.4

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

Jess! We're back together! I am so happy! (*happy laugh*) We said "I love you:s" before even sitting down... It's like all that time I spent crying in Shirin's room was only a bad dream... But yes, yes, we are taking it slow. I am not moving back in yet. I can stay here for a bit - Shirin's going back to New York after New Years and she is OK with me staying in her room. Also I gave back the ring, he's going to hold onto it until it feels right to ask me again. We'll be going on dates, which feels exciting. Like tonight we are finally seeing that Romeo and Juliet production we were supposed to when, well, you know. (*beat*) Reclaiming that, which is good, I think. (*serious*) I think he does want to change, Jess. He is trying. And I need to change, too. But the main thing is we are doing it together. So, 'no worries', OK? (*laughs*) All this means that now I have energy left over to be nervous about this film meeting. It's tomorrow. And they haven't sent me any lines or anything, so I can't prepare. The film is a period piece on the Mongolian empire, and it's being filmed in Kazakhstan, which I will admit is a country I had to look up on a map. I found some pictures - seems like it's incredibly beautiful, I can completely see why they would set a film there. The character I'm up for is supporting - the younger sister of the protagonist's wife - but she's a bit of a tomboy so she puts on men's clothes and learns to ride, which means that if I get it, I'd have to spend a few weeks before I start filming just training stunt horseback riding. This is where I am very grateful I stuck with it all those riding lessons growing up - I wouldn't have a chance at this role if I didn't already know how to ride a horse. So we shall

see. Keep sending those hugs my way - seems they are working! I'll let you know how it goes. Oceans of hugs!

(clicks)

Scene 52.5

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Hey Kat. Congratulations. (*breathes*) If you're happy, I'm happy. Just keep being happy, all right? And break a leg today! You will be extraordinary, I know it! I have to go - I love you so much - and see you soon!

(clicks)

Scene 52.6

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

(*very excited but incredulous*) Jess! I got it! I'm going to Kazakhstan on January 14th! I can't believe it! I got a real film role on location which pays real actual money! I am simply beyond excited! I have to run to work - I'll tell you all about it when I see you. Oceans and oceans!

(clicks)

Scene 52.7

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

CLAIRE

Hey Jess. Claire. (*beat*) Kat says you are coming here. Suppose I'll see you. And it's easier to say this on voicemail than in person, so here we go. (*deep breath*) Crap. I'm no good at this. (*exaggerated accent*) Get it together, Claire! (*beat, then quickly*) I'm sorry Jess. I wasn't good to you. (*lets out breath, relieved*) Sorry it's taken me so long to say it. (*beat*) Hey! I said two 'sorry':s in a row! (*fake US accent*) Better quit while I'm ahead. (*small laugh*) I hope you are good. See you soon. Bye. (*deep sigh of relief, cut off midway*)

(clicks)

Scene 52.8

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Kirsten! Hi. It's Jess. I suppose you've heard they're back together. I'm not surprised, only resigned. Didn't really think he'd let go that easily. But AAAARGH! It's so frustrating. *(sigh)* Just wanted to share that with someone who understands. Hope you have a happy new year - and feel free to vent to me about this whenever you want. Oceans of hugs!

Scene 52.9

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

(very sad) Oh Jess. I should have known it was too good to be true.

And today of all days - fitting it should be today, somehow.

(slowly) Today was my due date. I was supposed to have a baby today. But no baby for me. And no... relationship. Fuck. *(beat)* *I* broke it off this time. The final time. He... I know he wants to change. But he just kept pushing. And he wanted to be happy about me going to Kazakhstan, I believe he really did. But in the end he tried to persuade me not to go. And to move back in, right now. And make wedding plans. And I wasn't ready to do either of those things. I wanted there to be a way but I couldn't see it. So I just came back from breaking up with him. I'd prepared, I even wrote him a letter. I thought if he couldn't listen in the moment, maybe he could read it later and understand. But he wouldn't take it. *(small sob)* He wouldn't listen. *(sad sigh)* He was so hurt. And I can't... I can't do this anymore. I have to... heal. I love you.

(clicks)

Scene 52.10

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JOHNNO

(slightly wooden, is again reading from a script he's written) Kat. I am leaving this voicemail because I cannot give up while I still believe you love me. And I do believe it. That was one thing you managed to convince me of yesterday, even though that wasn't your intention. There has to be a way... I understand I gave you too much of an ultimatum. Again. But when you said you weren't sure we should be together that made me so scared I stopped listening. I get so

stuck in my patterns and expectations, and they are so hard to break even when I recognize them. But I also need a certain type of pattern, I need to know what to expect, and I need to be able to predict what will happen.

(paper rustling slightly) When I start thinking I realize how foolish my actions are. Throwing your letter on the ground yesterday was stupid. You were right that I would have needed to read what you had to say. Right then I just felt like it would hurt too much to even hold it. But as soon as I calm down and the adrenaline stops pumping I start understanding what you mean and realize you are right about a lot of things... I can't blame you if you do the same to this message - erase it without listening. But you are not usually as foolish as I am when it comes to that kind of thing. I don't want to lose you. You are the best girlfriend I have ever had. I want everything with you. But I should have learnt to slow down. Probably much too late to realize that now.

And it hurts to think that I may have to give this up. Perhaps I have learnt something for possible future relationships. Perhaps I can identify patterns better next time. But I am not ready to give up hope. Not until you tell me that you don't love me anymore.

That's when I know to stop fighting...

I love you.

(clicks)

Scene 52.11

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

JESS

Kat. I am so sorry. But I am also... I am also really proud of you for listening to yourself. All this, all this will make you stronger. And you will heal. But it will probably take time. (beat) If you feel there are things you want to say to Johnno uninterrupted - like in the letter - maybe do what he did and leave him a voicemail? (smiles) Maybe it's good that you are going far away and doing something completely different in just a few weeks. Maybe that will make it easier, to have something new to focus on. I am so happy you have that, and I know you will be incredible. I'm off to the airport soon, which means I will see you in *hours* rather than days at this point. So we will talk. We will go for epic walks in Wood Green and we will talk and talk and talk some more. I love you. Oceans of hugs!

(clicks)

Scene 52.12

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

KAT

This is the letter you threw away. (pause) Johnno. (beat) I care about you so much. The feelings are there and will continue to be there. But something you said a few days ago has stuck with me. "It's not about how much we love each other, it's about if we can live together". I would love for love to be enough for this to work, but we both know that it is not. When we broke up the first time something broke in me. I was giving it my all, I believed so much in our relationship up until then. Even when it was hard. Even when we were angry with each other. But it hurt so much that you chose to let the relationship end rather than consider changing your behavior. That... broke my trust in you, in the relationship and my energy and will to work on it just... died. I didn't understand it then, but it damaged so much. And then I spent Christmas grieving. I was and I am so sad to lose you and what we have built. I came far in my mourning process. Much farther than I realized. But then when you wanted to try again I was so happy. I could let all my feelings out again and it was such a joy. You were mine again and I got to be yours. The emotions took over. (beat) But the problems remain. And my energy to deal with them is nearly gone. I wanted to ease back into the relationship and try to simply spend time with you. I was hoping I could find a way back and that I would see your willingness to change. But there was no time. Yesterday I had been thinking about this all day and I understand that you noticed I wasn't fully present. But I felt attacked by your interrogation. I tried to avoid the conversation but you kept asking. And I finally told you the truth. I didn't know. You were so unhappy and it killed me to see it. And then the ultimatum - that I had to be sure I wanted to be with you to spend time with you. In the same way you earlier told me I had to choose between you and Jess. You close all these doors for me and I understand you do it to protect yourself. But yesterday you closed the door to the one chance I had to move forward in the relationship. I can't live with that all-or-nothing-mentality. For me there has to be compromises and an idea of meeting half-way. Otherwise we will only continue what we've been doing - where I try to compromise and you try to get your way or just give up. We cannot live together like that, Johnno. It's destructive. I don't want us to hurt each other any more. That's why I broke up with you. And that's why we will not get back together. It has nothing to do with how I feel about you and everything to do with the fact that we cannot live together.

(clicks)

Scene 52.13

(Modem dial-up tone) (click)

(On hospital speakerphone)

BRI

Hey sib, it's Bri (Bree). I'm here with Rachel and Maia. *(beat)*
Rachel has something to tell you.

RACHEL

Jess, my love. She's here. Our baby is here. She is asleep in my arms, and we are both well. Everything's good. It all happened very quickly - I'd just fallen asleep, and then I woke up and contractions had started. Bri (Bree) called the hospital right away, and they sent an ambulance.

BRI

(gently) Followed the procedure.

RACHEL

Yes. Seemed like a lot of fuss to me, but they do that when you're on bedrest, apparently. And they put all this extra monitoring stuff on me, and the baby, but they needn't have bothered. She was in a right hurry. Weren't you, little one? *(beat)* Still hurt like... nothing I've ever experienced, but... Worth it. *(smiles)* I would have loved for you to have been here. I'm sorry about the timing, my love. But you are where you needed to be, and Bri (Bree) and Maia are taking really good care of us 'til you get back.

MAIA

We won't stop once Jess gets back, you know.

RACHEL

(laughs) Of course. So don't worry, love. We are well, and happy, and taken care of. Oh, and I can walk again. Not quite like usual, but I'll get there. Let me know when you've landed safely in London.
(to the others) Anything you want to add?

BRI

Take care, sib. All is good here.

MAIA

Don't worry, Jess. See you soon.

RACHEL

I love you so much. Do what you need to do, and then come home to your family.

BRI

(same time as MAIA) Love you, sib!

MAIA

(same time as BRI) Love you Jess!

EVERYONE

Bye!

(clicks)

Scene 52.14

OLIVIA

Oh wow. I'm crying. That was... A lot. (beat) And I have more. I sat with my parents yesterday, and asked them a few things I've been wanting to know. We also have a house guest, so you are going to get to hear her too. I'll be back again after this, to finish everything properly.

Scene 52.15

(MUSIC)

OLIVIA

Hello. It is Christmas Eve, and I am here with my parents, say hello!

RACHEL

Hello!

JESS

Hi!

OLIVIA

And we have someone staying here over Christmas - hey Ina (EE-na)!

KAT

Hello. Though your listeners know me as Kat.

OLIVIA

Yes. Um, I wanted to give you all a chance to say something - I will play this after I've played the final voicemails, so this will be at the very end of the podcast. (pause) I have some questions, if that is easier?

RACHEL

I think so.

KAT and JESS

Yes.

OLIVIA

So... this isn't for you, Ina. But-

KAT

Why don't I go make some glögg and leave you to it?

OLIVIA

All right. (footsteps) So. Mum, mama. This has been a really strange year for me. I've... As you know, your divorce, it's been really hard for me. (*RACHEL and JESS make sympathetic 'mm':s*) And... through these voicemails I've spent all year listening to you when you first got together, and... (*voice breaks a little*) Why can't it still be like that?

JESS

Oh, Liv. That's the big one, right off. And I'm not sure we can answer that.

RACHEL

No. (*sighs*) Relationships are odd things, really. I still love your mum, Liv, you know that, right?

OLIVIA

Yes.

JESS

And I still love Rachel. Very much. But we have lived together and loved each other for a very long time, and now we both agree we are happier apart.

OLIVIA

But why?

RACHEL

Many reasons. One is that your mum is really happy here, in Ireland. I have had a good life here, but I would really like to go back to live in New Zealand. My parents are getting old, and most of the rest of my relatives are there, and I get to see them so rarely.

JESS

And I was ready to move with you back to New Zealand, but in that discussion... It became clear that being together isn't really important for us anymore.

OLIVIA

But... You want to be with other people?

JESS

Someday, probably. Not right now, for me anyway.

RACHEL

Yes... someday, maybe.

OLIVIA

How can you both be so damned calm about this? All this year... I've felt like my world is being torn apart.

JESS

Oh Liv darling, I'm so sorry.

RACHEL

We both are, love. And... you know. Neither of us have ever been the shouty type. We both get angry sometimes, of course, and we've had lots of arguments over the years, but... We agree on this.

JESS

I know you are hurting, Liv. Is it... Has it gotten any easier over this past year?

OLIVIA

(smiling through tears) I thought I was asking the questions? *(JESS and RACHEL laugh a little)* It has. And listening to you two when you were closer to my age has... helped, somehow. Helped understand you better.

RACHEL

Good.

JESS

In that case, I'm glad you started this podcasting project.

OLIVIA

Really? I know you've had your doubts.

JESS

Yes. Really. And my doubts have been... Not so much about me but about all the other people whose voices are in there. When I found out, I was angry with you. You know that. But also, I understood, I think. And we've gotten hold of everyone at this point.

RACHEL

Yes. I made that my job, to make sure they didn't hear about it from someone else. Some, like Bri (*Bree*) and Maia and Shirin and Emma were easy, we are still in touch with them. And Ina (*EE-na*) talked to her mother, of course. She also found Claire. I tracked down Johnno, eventually. Sent him an e-mail but never heard back. And... that's everyone - everyone whose voice is in there.

OLIVIA

Right. So last week I listened to the bit where you mum - Jess - is about to fly to London for a meeting about your screenplay. And - knowing my birthday, I am guessing you weren't there for my birth.

JESS

That's right. I wasn't there. Hated not being there.

RACHEL

But for what we knew at that time, it was the right decision.

JESS

It was. But it sucked.

RACHEL

I know. You only missed a few days.

JESS

Yeah.

OLIVIA

OK. *(beat)* But - the meeting? I've never heard of this film?

JESS

(laughs) It was never made. They were interested, but it came to nothing.

OLIVIA

Oh.

JESS

Very few people get their first screenplay made, you know. I did rework it years later, into a novel, but no-one wanted that either. Story's too complicated, I think.

RACHEL

You should try it with your publisher now.

JESS

Maybe. Might do that.

(footsteps, KAT comes in with glögg)

KAT

Safe to enter now?

OLIVIA

(laughs) I think so.

KAT

(hands out glögg, clink of spoons, cups and bowls) One for you and... you... and you.

RACHEL

Thanks. *(inhales the smell)* I love this stuff.

JESS

So do I. *(sips)*

OLIVIA

Have I had this before? Smells very Swedish.

KAT

It is!

OLIVIA
(sips carefully) Hm. I like it.

KAT
And very Christmassy. You must have had the kiddie version at some point. (*beat*) So, anything else you want us to talk about, Liv?

OLIVIA
I can ask about the film you were talking about in the last voicemails, perhaps?

JESS
Khan!

KAT
Yes. That was my breakthrough, really. Led to so many other things. Was a pretty miserable shoot though. Very cold and very dusty and I spent so much time on horseback... But Kazakhstan was beautiful, and the crew was great.

OLIVIA
You... sounds like you weren't exactly happy beforehand, so...

KAT
I was completely devastated. But doing something new, something that required **all** of my attention was really good at that point. (sips)

OLIVIA
Right. Don't know what else to ask about... Anything you want to say?

RACHEL
We've talked quite a lot about this since you came home, but I want to say that I am really happy you've found Mike. And I am sorry we didn't manage to find him sooner.

JESS
Yes - it's been something I've worried over many times over the years, and I am so glad you have met him now.

OLIVIA
I'm glad too. Though... I think I expected... more, somehow.

RACHEL
In what way?

OLIVIA
I don't know. Suppose I thought he'd be... like my parent somehow. But he's really not.

JESS
Maybe he can be something else?

OLIVIA

Yeah. We'll see. (beat) Anything else? (sips)

KAT

It's been strange reliving all these happenings through your podcast. (*Agreements from RACHEL and JESS*) But I think it's been good, too. Some things I had forgotten, others I think I had rewritten in my mind a little. Memory is a tricky thing, right?

JESS

Yes! Some things I had completely forgotten. (sips)

OLIVIA

So... Why did you save the files on your computer?

JESS

I'm not sure, actually. I think it was an idea of preserving it, somehow, like a kind of diary. It was a very important year for me - for all of us - 2000. (*Agreements from KAT and RACHEL*) Not sure I saved any of the later voicemails - we got pretty busy with you, your mama and I.

OLIVIA

Right... And - why are there hardly any baby pictures of me? That's what I was searching for to begin with.

RACHEL

(*laughs*) Really? We could have told you that. When we moved to the UK in... 2005, was it?

JESS

Yes.

RACHEL

We left a lot of stuff in storage in Auckland, Bri (*Bree*) was going to help us ship it later. But there was a fire in the storage facility, so we lost everything.

OLIVIA

So... (*smiles*) No big mystery?

RACHEL

(*smiles*) No. (sips)

OLIVIA

All right - think we're done - want to say happy holidays to the listeners?

ALL

Happy holidays! (*laughter*)

(MUSIC)

Scene 52.16

OLIVIA

Hello again. Back for the last time. I asked Tammi to join me. Hang on. (*clicks*) Can you hear me Tammi?

TAMMI

(on phone all through scene) Yes! Hello!

OLIVIA

Hello! So, I asked you to join me to... wrap this up, I suppose.

TAMMI

Yes. It's been fun.

OLIVIA

It has. But, you know... No more voicemails.

TAMMI

I know. So what are you going to do with all of your free time?

OLIVIA

(*smiles*) I don't know. More hikes?

TAMMI

(*laughs*) There is always more hikes.

OLIVIA

Especially in New Zealand.

TAMMI

Yes! Looking forward to going back to summer.

OLIVIA

Oh yes! We're going back after New Years.

TAMMI

We are. After your birthday - congratulations in advance! Hope it's a good one!

OLIVIA

Thanks! Somehow I think it will be... We're about to end here - but you and I will keep talking and release it as a Patreon special, right?

TAMMI

Yes! The final Tammi's Takeover - part 4! The previous three takeover episodes are available to our Patreon supporters from a certain level, just go to [patreon.com\[/y2kpod\]](https://patreon.com/y2kpod) to find out more.

OLIVIA

Exactly. But now I think it's time to say goodbye to the listeners,
right Tammi?

TAMMI

Yes. Goodbye - and thank you so much.

OLIVIA

Yes. Thank you, dear listeners, for coming along on this journey
with me, with us. It's been... So much has happened, and I'm not
sure I'm even the same person I was a year ago. I mean, of course I
am, but... It's been a YEAR.

(CREDITS MUSIC)

OLIVIA

If you want to get in touch with me you can e-mail me at
y2kpod@gmail.com. Or to find out what I'm up to, you can follow us
on Twitter or Instagram @y2kpod. Also check out our webpage, at
y2kpod.com Our brilliant 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 so, so much for listening.
(doesn't quite know what to say, smiles) Oceans of hugs!

TAMMI

(laughs) Oceans of hugs! Bye!

OLIVIA

Bye!

(OUTRO MUSIC)