



NOTE: In All Honesty is a theatrical podcast produced for the ear and designed to be heard, it features both spoken word and music. The following transcript has been made available for the hard of hearing and to increase accessibility to our podcast. If you are able we strongly encourage you to listen to the audio, which includes emotion and emphasis that's not on the page. Episodes are transcribed by the creatives behind the podcast, and may contain errors. Please check the corresponding audio before quoting in print.

- EPISODE 3 – THE BIRTH -

[GILLIAN SPEAKS] This project has been produced and recorded on the lands of the Woi Wurrung, Boon Wurrung, and Wathaurong peoples of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and welcome all First Nations people listening today. We acknowledge the rich history of story-telling and music within this culture.

[IN ALL HONESTY THEME MUSIC BEGINS]

Hi there, and welcome to In All Honesty. I'm Gillian Cosgriff, and I have composed and performed the music in Season 1. This is a podcast that allows people to share experiences they've been through, that society doesn't like to talk about.

There's no interviewer, there's no questions and there's no prompts. We send our storyteller away with a recording device and they get to tell their story on their own terms. These are stories you don't get to hear every day. If you haven't already we recommend you go back and start from episode 1 so you're getting the full story.

There are some swearwords in this podcast and as a content warning we'll be discussing still birth, pregnancy loss and dealing with losing a child. If you need to talk to anyone about anything you hear today you can contact Life Line on 13 11 14 or check our show notes for additional resources.

Thanks for listening –

[THE BIRTH]

[BERT SPEAKS] *coughs*

[BERT SPEAKS AND GIRLS SINGS] So... I have no memory of going to the hospital.



[GIRL SINGS] So... I have no memory (Repeats) of going to the hospital. (Repeats)

[BERT SPEAKS] I actually - I can't remember getting in the car, driving there, I can't remember where we parked, I can't even remember the entrance to go in to the hospital. Um. I'm pretty sure it was a side road, but I, I'm guessing. Um...

shuffles

I remember our room; I remember our room 'cos it was big - it was the birthing suite at Geelong hospital – it was pretty amazing.

Um, I don't remember Amanda being uh given the gel or being induced, I don't....

[BERT SPEAKS AND GIRL SINGS] I dunno, there's a whole block that is kind of been, been erased.

[GIRL SINGS] I dunno, there's a whole block that is kind of been, been erased.
(REPEATS)

[BERT SPEAKS] Um, it doesn't really come to until... she is in contractions and we are - and this is gonna get pretty graphic, just so you know - um... we have a midwife in the room with us. Um, our obstetrician can't be there because he's... delivering a baby somewhere else I think.

And um, Amanda's going through the normal process of giving birth, the normal birthing process.

And then, there's a point where... um, she's pushing - and of course Meg's a lot smaller so it's not... it's not as... as full on a birth as it might be with a full-sized, full-term child.

But Amanda... had, is pushing and.... *sighs* she... goes to the bathroom, I think? And the midwife follows, and she pushes, and Meg comes out quite fast. And the midwife kind of catches her,

[BERT SPEAKS AND GIRL SINGS] and then just hands her straight to me.

[GIRL SINGS] just hands her straight to me (REPEATS)

[BERT SPEAKS] And I remember just holding... this... tiny little girl in my hands. And... um.... Her lips were fully, like, fully formed, they were fully... they looked exactly like... Olly's lips. And she had big feet, I remember she had - well y'know,



big feet for her body - um... and I looked up and I... I was very emotional. I was... I was weeping - quite - profusely.

shuffles

And the midwife was just in-between myself and Amanda, and... Amanda was walking around the room in-in-in absolute shock. She was just walking around the room with a big smile just going, "Whoar, wow, how was that?! That was so fast, that was amazing. That was so quick. Can you believe that? Babe? Babe, can you believe how quick that was?" And just looking at me; and I remember thinking, 'She's got no idea what's going on. She's... got *no* idea what's going on.'

And um... oh, of course! Before we got into that room, we'd got to... our actual suite where we'd be - where we'd be... not the... not the room for delivery, but the suite - the birthing room - we were given... I might be making this up, it may be the same room - I feel like it wasn't - I feel like it was a different room, but we were given, um... actually it was, it was the same room, it was the bathroom. It was the bathroom in our birthing suite. And when we walked in we were give, um... paper. Um... ah... a polaroid camera. An ink pad. And the midwife said, y'know, "You might wanna - you might wanna do some stuff with this. You might... wanna take some prints or... take some photos" and in my head I'm like, 'Are fuckin' joking?! Why the fuck would I wanna do that? I'm - I - we - we're having this baby and we are outta here, what... what are you talking about?'

I didn't say this but she could just see that I was - that there was a certain amount - I was so angry before this had even happened; I was so angry leading up to this because we were told we weren't allowed to have the baby in a particular hospital because it was a - a Catholic-based hospital and us inducing a baby that was not going to survive... anyway, I don't wanna go into it.

Um, and... so skip forward, the baby's born and I'm holding her and... the first thing I wanna do - immediate thing I wanna do - is...

[BERT SPEAKS AND GIRL SINGS] take a photo; take several photos. Take her - her feet prints, her hand prints. I do it all.

[GIRL SINGS] take a photo; take several photos. Take her - her feet prints, her hand prints. I do it all.

[BERT SPEAKS & GIRL SINGS] I bathe her.



[BERT SPEAKS] Put her on a little ice bed. um... And I dress her in a muslin wrap and put her on a little ice bed and... she lays down next to me on the bed, in the room, uh and... Amanda is still not a hundred percent... with us yet, she hasn't come to. It doesn't - I don't think it happens for quite a few hours. But that's OK; she's dealing with her own... thing.

And I lay with my daughter. And I... I –

[BERT SPEAKS AND GIRL SINGS] there was no way I was going home. There was no way I was leaving.

[GIRL SINGS] there was no way I was going home. No way I was leaving. no way I was going home. No way I was leaving. No way... No way - I was going home... No way I was leaving... No way

[BERT SPEAKS] So we were told we could spend... two nights – the night, that night and the next night - together. And then it would have to be - then it would be time to - to take the body away.

So that was the first day; that was the birthing day. Um... and I think it wasn't until about later that evening when Red realised what was going on, and... became quite emotional herself, and then we just lay with Meg and... she had a little ice bed underneath her - I guess to preserve her - and ah... and we lay with her.

[MUSIC CONTINUES AND FADES]

[GILLIAN SPEAKS] Thanks for listening.

[IN ALL HONESTY THEME MUSIC PLAYS]

If you've enjoyed this episode make sure to hit subscribe to hear the rest of this season of In All Honesty, you could also give us a review or even tell a friend to their face. As always if you need to talk anyone about anything you've heard today you can contact Life Line on 13 11 14 or check our show notes for additional resources.

[END]