



*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 5 – THE FIRST VISIT -

[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 FIRST VISIT]

[MUSIC BEGINS]

[BERT SPEAKS] So about seven weeks after the funeral, uh, the funeral



[BERT SPEAKS & GIRL SINGS] it's a weird thing to say isn't it, was a funeral, I guess it was a funeral, I don't know I see funerals as um... events where you bury people who've kinda had a life but uh... anyway,

[GIRLS SINGS] Funeral, it's a weird thing to say isn't it. I guess it was a funeral... Weird thing to say isn't it, but um anyway... (REPEATS)

[BERT SPEAKS] Seven weeks after the funeral we get a phone call from the stone masons to say that uh, Meg's, um grave stone is ready, is completed uh if we wanna come and have a look they're gonna put it in place. Um and I was I oh... I don't know, it, it was a kind of fi- finality for me that was um a lot more jarring than I, I expected I was kind of, I was really looking forward to seeing the stone initially and then when that phone call came I was like oh that's it we lock it down now with a bit of stone on top of a grave site and that it feels like, I don't know it feels like a large door to a chamber do you know what I mean? But you can't get through that door and it's just plonked on top and... Yeah, so final.

[GIRL SINGS] So final.

[BERT SPEAKS] I guess is, is what it felt anyway we went along to the to the, um cemetery and um, it had a lovely message on it and it had myself and Amanda and Oliver's name on it but I remember just standing so far back from the grave for the first time that I went back since the funeral, or since the burial um, I just couldn't approach it, I couldn't, it took me a long time to be able to get close to it. Um, I reckon it was probably maybe a couple of months later I went back and I, I got I crouched down close enough to it and I pulled a bit of grass from around it and, and I remember putting my hand on the plaque for the first time and touching it um, and just one of those explosions in your, in your chest that you can't explain it, it's like someone's got a foot on your heart and they're just pressing this and you keep thinking surely that, that's the last of it, surely that's the last of that kind of pain. Surely that has to stop eventually.

[GIRL SINGS] It has to stop eventually, it has to stop eventually, it has to stop eventually,

[BERT SPEAKS] I'm here to tell you folks it takes a... it takes a lot longer than that, it takes years, um. And at first that was uh a challenge, a real challenge. I... I couldn't go anywhere near the cemetery and we'd go... I'd like to say we went often. I don't think we went as often as... we... well not that you should, you should go a certain amount of times, you go whenever you can... you go... whenever it feels like it's right. Um We went enough, I felt like I had Meg around me in many other ways, I didn't need to go and visit the site um... now we go when we're



walking all the time, if we're walking past, we just dr... pop past and say g'day and pull some grass from around it and some weeds and tidy it up and it's in a row of a whole bunch of very, very young small children, newborns, you know toddlers, it's a, it's a um beautiful little spot where she is buried but it's also one of those tragic things where you look around at all the other gravesites and you realise how many other families and how many other people have gone through what you've gone through and, and the variables in their grief and the difference and um, I can honestly say I have never seen another single person there, when I've been there so maybe we go a lot I don't know, maybe it's just by chance that we haven't bumped into the same people, mind you, we do lead the lives of ah vampires so potentially they're all at work (laughs) when, when we're there, um... but having said that, how painful it was, and how pain, it's not painful anymore... it really isn't (clears throat), I still have a tear occasionally when I'm there but... now it just puts a smile on my face um... uh and particularly the next moment which I'm going to share with you

[GIRL SINGS] I still have a tear occasionally when I'm there. But mostly it just puts a smile on my face. Hmmmm

[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]