



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 7 – THE BIG BROTHER -

[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 BIG BROTHER]

[MUSIC BEGINS]

[BERT SPEAKS] So... *coughs* our eldest, Oliver is uh sixteen and a half, um. And...

[BERT SPEAKS & GIRL SINGS] I can unequivocally say that Oliver is one of the most passionate, um, empathetic, brilliant human beings, uh I know.



[GIRL SINGS] I can unequivocally say that Oliver is one of the most passionate, um, empathetic, brilliant human beings, uh I know.

[BERT SPEAKS] Without a doubt. Don't get me wrong, he can be a, he can be a sixteen and a half year old uh, and fuckin' drive you crazy

[BERT SPEAKS & GIRL SPEAKS] but for the, for the most part he's the former.

[BERT SPEAKS] Um. And he's always had his er his own kind of journey and relationship with, with Meg through the whole period in time. Um, he was around obviously when it, when it happened and I, I've told you in previous episodes what his reaction was as a, as a kid and growing, coming forward, uh as a young man. Um but most recently, Christmas just gone um. Oh let me skip back a little bit, about eight years ago I was asked by the wonderful Marieke Hardy to be a part of the Men of Letters series. She does a Women of Letters and a Men of Letters series um. And with the Men of Letters you always have to write your letter to a woman who's changed your life and when Marieke asked me to be part of the series I immediately thought, I'm gonna write my letter to my daughter. Uh. And it was a, an incredibly cathartic ah experience. And um, it really helped with my, uhhh, I guess my own therapy, in a sense. Um subsequently that letter got published in the Men of Letters and Women of Letters book, and last Christmas uh Olly read that letter in the book. He'd never read it before, um, or never heard it. Um. And he, he found the book and he read it. And then he asked his mother if he could see the images of his sister. And so for the first time he thought he'd, he actually met his sister properly. Um. And this was all off his own back, this was nothing to do with us. We didn't promote it or ask-or coax him or. He just did it on his own. And since then he's been, he's been writing letters to his sister. Um, I guess off the back of the fact that I'd written a letter to her. But he's written more than one. Ah, and he was, happy enough to share the first one with us. And he was also happy for me to share it with you guys as part of this series and um. So I wanna thank ya mate for that. Uh. It's – he's gone on to write more letters to his sister – we don't, we haven't read those. Uh they're for his own private um time, and his own private thoughts with his sis. Um. Which I think is quite extraordinary, and exceptional, for a sixteen and a half year old male. Um. And I, I yeah. I'm very very super proud of him. Um, But here, is his first letter. To his sister, and it's dated the sixth of December last year, 2019.

[BERT SPEAKS & GIRLS SPEAKS] To Meg. I don't really know how to start these letters. Like sure, I read Dad's but don't expect anything like that.

[BERT SPEAKS] The folks might think I'm only writing to you because I met you two nights ago, which is probably true. But I've forever wanted to chat. After sobbing to Dad's letter I felt like you wanted to hear from me too. I'm not too sure where the hell you are to be honest. Like, I know I'm Catholic, but I don't think I've ever believed. You're not an angel. I think that you're more like a butterfly, which sounds so fucking cringey now I read that, but it makes sense. Ever since I was a kid I was shit scared of butterflies which definitely would mean that you are like your mother. Just, Just playing. But you definitely would be



fierce. On baller I reckon. With a better left foot than me. *clears throat* My life right now is pretty fucking awesome. Girlfriend, mates, footy. Typical Geelong teenager. (*Um, let me just say that the girlfriend is no longer but um we can get onto that later.*) I don't really know what's ahead, like future wise. I want to do that sports management course at uni but sometimes I just doubt myself. I'll be fine though. I've got the best support group around me. Your brother is good. He's such a pain sometimes but I mean, you know, what can you do? Dad's great. He's been getting gigs since I was born so all I have to do is stay alive. Mum is killing it. Potter (Harry Potter) has done wonders for her confidence and her happiness. I remember in Dad's letter this was about the part where he spoke about what you look like. Personally no clue at all. I don't think you're tanned. Stiff. But you're not super white. You're about five foot four with a short bob cut that is light brown and tinges of red. You have your Nan's blue eyes and your Perepere's smile. (*Perepere being my father – grandpere, grandpa*) You're at Sacred Heart, to Mum's disgust, and you play footy for Newtown. The Parkers (Bell Park) still don't have a team. Pa will convert you though. I will probably write back soon. Uh This has been a really good thing for me. I'm not too sure what got me to write this letter. I think it's mostly Dad's letter. And maybe how Grace keeps talking, and then crying about you. (*Grace is the girlfriend. Was the girlfriend.*) She's cool. I reckon it'll take a while for you to start liking her, but five months in you guys are best mates. I've gotta go now, Mum and Dad are gonna be home soon. I need to let you know that I love you so much. I find it so cool that I can just talk to someone who doesn't need to say a whole lot back. Stay out of mischief, say hi to Pat for me, and fly back soon. Speak soon, your big brother, Oliver.

[GIRLS SINGS] I can unequivocally say that Oliver is one of the most passionate, um, empathetic, brilliant human beings, uh I know.

[BERT SPEAKS] So. Yeah. That's um that's the big brother. It's amazing how he still, still wants to be the big brother as far as the girls go and all that stuff. Good Lord, you're lucky Meg that you are not here at times and you don't have a boyfriend cos...oh. I think I'd be okay. I think you'd have more problems with your brother, to be perfectly honest. Um. But yeah. He's a good man. And he loves you very much.

[GILLIAN SPEAKS] Thanks for listening.

[IN ALL HONESTY THEME MUSIC PLAYS]

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