



*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 8 – THE SUPERHERO -

[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 SUPERHERO]

[BERT SPEAKS] So almost exactly to the day that I am currently recording this, in one month, will be Meg's fourteenth birthday.

[MUSIC BEGINS] Um. And early doors, when it was Meg's birthday it was,

[BERT SPEAKS & GIRLS SINGS] trepidacious.



[BERT SPEAKS] Um, the lead up. The weeks leading up. The – it's my birthday, in a couple of weeks and then it was, three weeks later was Meg's birthday. Um. So it was always that kind of – moment of, of the year where it was tinged with sadness, um, and sort of uncertainty of how- how do we deal with this thing. Particularly in the early years. But as time's gone on, it's been a beautiful day. A beautiful celebration. Uh we usually go out for dinner, or we have a lovely dinner at home, just the four of us. Um. And we, I mean we don't sit around the campfire telling stories about Meg, you know we only had two days with her, but we do – I, I guess we spend the time reflecting on what we do have, um, which is each other and how – how good it is.

[BERT SPEAKS AND GIRLS SPEAKS] Like, I don't know, maybe I'm one of the really lucky people, but I, adore my family. Like, they're all really great people.

[GIRL SINGS] but I, adore my family. Like, they're all really great people. (REPEATS)

[BERT SPEAKS] Um. And we're also lucky enough to have a superhero in our family. Um. She doesn't wear a cape. She doesn't have a fancy costume. She uh doesn't, you know shoot thunderbolts out of her eyes. But she does have more strength than Superman. And I feel pretty blessed that I am on this journey with her –

[BERT SPEAKS AND GIRLS SINGS] and I'm talking about Amanda. Uh Meg's mum.

[GIRL SINGS] and I'm talking about Amanda. Uh Meg's mum. (Repeats)

[BERT SPEAKS] I don't think I've seen strength like that. This. And I know people go through worse. I, I've said that before. I know there's much much worse things in the world. Like, you know, a thousand fold. But in our little bubble, uh, she is our rock. She is extraordinary. As a mum, as a business woman, as my wife, as my best friend. Um. And I wouldn't wish this kind of trauma as a parent on anybody. Ah.

[BERT SPEAKS & GIRL SPEAKS] But if, you ever have to face something like this, I really hope you have a super hero like, like Amanda.

[BERT SPEAKS] Because it makes the journey bearable, and easier. Um. Yeah. I think Meg – little, little elements of the Meg factor are her kryptonite, but they're also what makes her so strong. Uh I know my going through this journey um, in such a public fashion and form with, without Amanda on board – I mean she's on board – but without her being part of it has been somewhat of a challenge. Um. It's one of those things where I asked permission and she said, of course you can. And I've only – I've had to play some of this stuff in drips – um, you know, it's still, it's still raw. The pain of this'll never go away. For either of us. It's not daily painful, it's just

[BERT & GIRL SPEAKS] when you're reminded of things

[GIRL SINGS] when you're reminded of things



[BERT SPEAKS] and moments – and I have dredged a lot up from the past – and it’s been somewhat extraordinary to do this – um, and I don’t know if, if any of you out there will get anything from this.

[BERT & GIRL SPEAKS] I hope you do.

[BERT SPEAKS] I’m not sure. I , I just, thought this would be a great thing to talk about, to allow other people to talk about how they feel about stuff that people tend to not want to speak about. Because it’s not a popular topic. You know. Hey, so let me tell you about my dead child! \*chuckles\* Um, yeah. We were – uh – sorry. But but it is, it’s not popular and, and I have been lucky enough to have a woman beside me who has made it the norm and has made it normal for our kids and for our family, and for that, to be understood by two young men who are growing up, I, I think that’s a great thing going forward.

[BERT & GIRL SINGS] Because at the moment there are a lot of young fellas out there who are, unable to talk about their feelings and, and ending their lives. And it’s happening amongst my, my son’s circle of friends. Four this year.

[GIRL SINGS] Four this year.

[BERT SPEAKS] So. If this sort of stuff can show them that it is okay to, to be hurt, it is okay to feel pain, it is okay to grieve, it’s okay to talk about it, it’s okay to laugh about it, it’s okay to – to have fun, as well. It’s even okay to make jokes about your sister, if she was around. Um. Then they can only go towards a better mental health umm and I hope that this helps anybody out there who’s suffering the same sort of conflict about anything in their life, not just, not just having a stillborn child or – it can be anything. I hope this helps you somehow. And I wanna thank, Liza and Harry for allowing us to, to discuss it, and have a platform. It’s been incredible. And to my little girl, thank you for,

[BERT SPEAKS & GIRL SPEAKS] thanks for your magic. I love you forever.

[GIRL SINGS] [LYRICS REPEAT AND OVERLAP – A ‘MEGAMIX’ OF SUNG LYRICS FROM THE SERIES]

There was no way I was going home, no way I was leaving

Just hands her straight to me

No way

Just hands her straight to me

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



Talking about Amanda, Meg's Mum

Felix James LaBonté – what a little banger

[MUSIC CONTINUES THEN FADES]

[GILLIAN SPEAKS] Thanks for listening.

[IN ALL HONESTY THEME MUSIC PLAYS]

We hope you've enjoyed 'MEG' the first season of In All Honesty. We're busy working on our next season, so make sure you hit subscribe so you don't miss out on any future episodes. If you've enjoyed the show you can 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 you can contact Life Line on 13 11 14 or check our show notes for additional resources.

Thanks again for listening.

[END]