

Bonus Episode: Sexy Hide-and-Seek at the Shakespeare Festival with Brydie Lee-Kennedy

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kelsey: Hello, my name is Kelsey McKinney and welcome to a little bonus episode of Normal Gossip. We are in the thick of production for season five right now and cannot wait to share these stories with y'all. They're deranged and weird and so fun, but I thought you might like to have a little treat while you wait.

So we decided to make one of our subscriber episodes public, and that's what you're going to find here in this episode on the first Friday of every month, we release a special episode where one of our friend level subscribers comes on to tell me a gossip story of their choosing. It is literally one of the best hours of my month.

And so many of the stories are so good. You can become a subscriber at the friend of a friend level for \$5 a month and get. All of these episodes, including the backlog, or you can become a subscriber at the friend level for \$12 a month and get all the episodes in the backlog and be entered into a lottery to get to be the guest and come on the show and tell me your little story.

Friend level subscribers also get added to the close friends list on Instagram, where we are up to all sorts of shenanigans to subscribe. Just go to supportnormalgossip.com. Oh, there was one other thing that I wanted to tell you about before we get into the story. What? What was it? Hmm. Oh, right. Yeah.

It was at season five of Normal Gossip will return in a couple of weeks. We will be back on October 18th. So mark your calendars. And I hope that this story with subscriber Brydie Lee Kennedy will tide you over until then.

Brydie is an Australian TV writer based in London and her debut novel *Go Lightly* is out next year.

It's being billed as a spiky bisexual love story so I truly cannot wait to get my hands on it.

kelsey: Brydie, welcome!

brydie: Hi, thank you so much for having me. I'm so excited

kelsey: It's such a delight to have you. I'm glad to have an Australian too since we have... many Australians, for some reason that I don't really understand.

brydie: We love gossip, I think, is the reason.

kelsey: Is that just innate? They teach you that at birth?

brydie: Well, I think we definitely have like a, uh, a sort of warm shit talking sensibility in Australia.

So, gossip spirals off from that.

kelsey: What does warm shit talking mean? Like, what's cold shit talking? I guess that would be more helpful for understanding, but please, go ahead.

brydie: Well, cold shit talking is definitely more what British people do. I imagine after having lived here for 10 years. Um, no, warm shit talking, I guess it's like, you are very likely to be critical of your friends in like the most loving, uh, way possible if you are from Australia. I think it's like exemplified in how Australians use the C word, Americans find like shocking the way we do it, but like you are often using it affectionately, and it does not translate to American English at all.

kelsey: Right, because Americans are like, oh, so you hate your friend. And you're like, no, she's my best friend.

brydie: Yeah, it's like, oh no, I was speaking about my mother, who I love dearly. She's a perfect angel and I would die without her. But yes, I have called her that.

kelsey: I love that. Incredible start. Brydie, will you tell me what your relationship with gossip is? Besides warm shit talking, which is obviously a key component.

brydie: Um, yeah, I love gossip is the main thing. And I think I, um, and have always been like unashamed of that in a way that it's only when talking to other people that I'm like, Oh, maybe I should hide this more when people are like less into it. But, um, I grew up, um, Catholic, but like kind of fun Irish Catholic rather than like the scary Catholic.

kelsey: Okay

brydie: A lot of that is like drinking and talking about people. So. In my family, like whenever my, my mom's like Irish cousins and stuff were around, like. The thing I always think about is they would often start stories about people who were either dead or not there by saying, now, you know, we must never speak ill of the dead or departed. And then everyone would cross themselves

kelsey: and then they would go

brydie: and then they would just go like, Oh, we've crossed ourselves. We've made it okay with God. Um, now we can say whatever we want. Um, and also like my mom's family generations before now, but they were all, um, Kind of low level criminals.

kelsey: Okay. Sick. Great.

brydie: Yeah. Great. So they, um, they were like Irish, like migrants in Australia and they, they basically ran illegal gambling in that group.

kelsey: God, that rules. That's so funny.

brydie: It's like a fun thing to run as well. Like if you're going to be a criminal, it's like, yeah, like betting on the horses.

kelsey: Yeah, you're running illegal games.

brydie: Exactly, exactly.

kelsey: That's fine.

brydie: And they like really ran it through the church.

kelsey: Oh my God

brydie: And of the church. So that was definitely like, growing up, you know, um, that generation was kind of dying out. They were like the generation above my mom. But like they used to just tell the most completely nuts stories about like, their involvement but also like the church and also the like definite complicity of like the cops and everything.

kelsey: Oh my God

brydie: Um, so like I definitely grew up in a household where gossip was like a fun thing to do. Um, and then yeah, I work in TV and I worked in comedy before that and like, um, it, I was like, Oh, it's yeah. I think a lot of your guests have said, but like, it's definitely a way to protect yourself. Um, because yeah, like I started out in comedy when I was like 19 and all of the people around me were like 35 year old dudes.

kelsey: Yeah. Yikes.

brydie; Which is like a very unpleasant ratio.

kelsey: Yeah.

brydie: But yeah, like definitely older women were like invaluable to me then. Um, because they were like very willing to talk shit about the men that they knew. So, yeah, I think it's a, I want to be like, Oh, I think it's like a social good. And I do, but also it's just fun.

kelsey: Yeah. I mean, that's kind of, we run into this every episode, right? Which is that like, gossip is a word that isn't very like narrow. It's a super broad word. And so it's like, yes, it's equally technically gossip for someone older than you to be like, Hey, watch out for this guy who's bad. And it's also gossip for you to like, go up to your friend at work and be like, did you hear that she like crashed her car this weekend? Like those are not the same, but they have the same word, which is kind of awkward. So you said you've told us about your family and your work relationship with gossip. What is your personal relationship with gossip like? Do you gossip with your friends? Which member of the gossip group are you?

brydie: So I think definitely my friendship group. My friends know that if they want to talk about something, they can send it to me and I'll be like, Totally on it. I'm like thrilled about it. And not only that, but I'll take my own personal diversions to like, uh, develop my own theories about things. And like, um, recently something like actually very minor happened at a mutual friends wedding, but like wedding gossip is one of my favorite things ever

kelsey: it's perfect

brydie: the stakes are like act—in, in real, you know, in the grand scheme of things, the stakes of a wedding are probably low, but the stakes of a wedding and people's lives are so high that I love any chaos related to weddings.

kelsey: And, it's, I don't know. I like, I feel like a wedding is also the only place where it's like, I have all of these people together. Right. Like all the people from the various points of your life are in one room and who knows what they could tell each other. Like that is alone, just an immense amount of tension

brydie: Yeah. And so I, I love that. And so basically like something happened at a mutual friend's wedding and like three, I wasn't there and like three different people got in touch to just like, let me know.

kelsey: Wow. You know, thank you so much to those scouts of gossip who reported back to you. That was so kind.

brydie: I then did try and like get my partner involved in discussing it. And, um, he, like, he thinks that he's a good gossip and, like, loves to gossip, but, like, he really burns out pretty quickly, like, he has this one theory, and then he's done, whereas I'm like, no, let's pull the different threads, let's look at this from other sides, and he's like, oh, okay.

kelsey: But that's why you have friends.

brydie: It's like. Yeah.

kelsey: Sometimes, you know, you have friends who are like, here's my one theory and sometimes they're right. And then you have people like us who are like, I've created a spreadsheet of 72 potential theories that could interact with each other in these ways.

brydie: Well, that's my people

kelsey: Brydie, are you ready to bring me whatever it is that you have come here carrying?

brydie: Yes. Um, yeah. So my story happened many years ago now, um, when I was, um, I was a cabaret performer, which I am not anymore. Okay. Um, so it's from the high stakes world of, um, niche arts festivals

kelsey: Oh my God bless you

brydie: Um, so basically something that used to happen when I was still doing cabaret is, um, I would tour a lot and that meant that I was going to festivals all the time and arts festivals. And um, when you go to arts festivals a lot, you, you do end up seeing a lot of the same people at all of them. Um, People will, like, have their show, whether it's like a cabaret show, a theatre show, comedy, whatever, and they'll usually tour that one show for a year, which can mean six festivals where you're seeing people. Um, yeah, so it kind of develops into this, like, weird camp thing where, like, People that you wouldn't otherwise necessarily see, you're spending like a month at a time in a small city with.

kelsey: it has like circus vibes, right? Like this, like traveling pitch our tent, right? Like we're all here. I know it's like an actual festival, but the idea of these like campers almost is very funny.

brydie: There are always tents involved as well. So

kelsey: incredible

brydie: but yeah, like so, this, I mean this story must have been like close to a decade ago now but um, I had sort of been at one festival like months earlier and had had this like little flirtation um, with a guy that I'm gonna call Sam.

kelsey: love it

brydie: And Sam was in, Sam was in a play, a very like well reviewed like serious theater kind of play, um, with two other guys, so it was just three people in the play, um, who I'll call Tom and Will.

kelsey: Okay. Sam, Tom and Will.

brydie: Yeah. Um, that is what all British men are called anyway.

kelsey: Yeah. That's all the names they have there. [laughs]

brydie: Pretty much. Yeah. Um, and so I'd had this like brief flirtation with this, this guy, Sam, and then not seen him for months. And I think in that period, like, um, I had, then I got a girlfriend and like he did as well. And I was like, Oh yeah, not, you know? And then, um, so we didn't talk for months. Then many months later, we ended up at a different festival. And on the first night I was talking to someone about how I had gone through this breakup and Sam is there. He said, Oh, I've also gone through this breakup.

kelsey: Wow. Mirroring paths.

brydie: Exactly. Um, and I should say right at the start of the story that the most of the story doesn't concern me. The reason that I need to set this up is that this is why I knew the story so deeply. Because of my intersection with this person.

kelsey: Incredible. Because of your crush.

brydie: Yeah, basically. Um, and so I, in, so all of these festivals have two to three festival bars where all of the performers drink together.

kelsey: great

brydie: Um, usually there's nothing else to do. You finish your show for the evening and you go to the performers bar. So again, it kind of is that thing where you're like really thrown together with these people for quite some time. So in the performers bar in front of all of our industry peers, we very visibly are flirting with each other. Um, Sam becomes very drunk. I'm like, Oh, I'm not, you know, but, um, towards the end of the night, um, he kisses me in front of all of these people and, and says in front of everyone, you know, you've got to come home with me. And I say, no, you're really drunk. I say, you know, let me know if you want to message me sober. Fine. I leave.

kelsey: Smart! Good boundary

brydie: To be—yeah. I credit my like three year old self with like actually kind of pulling off something good there. And as the rest of the story shows, I really made like the right choice. Oh no,

kelsey: Oh no, terrifying foreshadowing.

brydie: Yeah, although I also want to say at the top here, um, at no point is anyone in the story in actual danger.

kelsey: Okay, oh Jesus [laughs]

brydie: And everyone [laughs] everyone is fine at the end.

kelsey: What a caveat.

brydie: I know, I was like, oh. I don't want someone to get halfway through and be like, what is it? What a strange, uh, I'm really worried that something terrible is going to happen. Um, but yeah, so I don't think much of it. And, um, I guess the next few nights I probably went to a different festival bar or I'm not sure what was happening, but I didn't see Sam and didn't hear from him and was unclear if he remembered the exchange at all.

kelsey: Okay.

brydie: And then about a week later, I was getting ready for my show, and one of the, um, staff at the venue that I was performing at said to me like, oh, are you okay?

kelsey: Excuse me?

brydie: Yeah. And I was like, yes, that's so kind of you to ask

kelsey: I'm having a very emotional day. Thank you for caring.

brydie: I was like, how bad do I look right now?

kelsey: Yeah, checking your makeup for like eye bags. Yeah

brydie: exactly. And I turned to my caberet partner and, um, I was like, Oh yeah. We're fine, you know, and the person was like, Oh, I just heard what happened with Sam from I'm going to say Macbeth. It wasn't Macbeth, but like a bad luck play.

kelsey: I mean, that is a truly bad luck play.

brydie: also a three, a three person Macbeth would be really weird.

kelsey: You would have to have such a good memory. Yeah.

brydie: Yeah. Okay.

kelsey: So, so this staffer comes in and is like, Are you okay? I heard about what happened with Sam and at this point, you have no idea what this person is talking about. Is that correct?

brydie: Yeah, no idea. And I thought like. What an odd question. We kissed once and

kelsey: just because I kissed this guy one time in front of everyone we know does not mean I'm invested.

brydie: Exactly! Um, and this person was like, Oh, you know, I heard the whole thing that happened. And then you had, you had a fight with him at his show!

kelsey: What?

brydie: I was like, that wasn't me.

kelsey: Uh oh.

brydie: So this staffer is like, oh, I'm so sorry, I must have really got the wrong thing. And I was like, that's so weird. And I was like, do you want to tell what happened? And she was like, oh, don't worry about it. I've clearly like, oh, made a huge mistake.

kelsey: It's too late now, babe. You started!

brydie: Yeah! And so I was like, Well, I'm fine. And she's like, great. Don't worry about it. Don't worry about it.

kelsey: Chaos monster

brydie: And again, we're in this kind of situation where she's like, we're sort of working together, but we don't really know each other, and she's just like, don't worry about it. I got it wrong. So I was like, okay, so we do the show. And then the next day at the, at the performers bar, another performer comes up and is like, is it true? You like went off at Sam at his venue? And I said, I've not seen him. I have no, you know, pardon me. So I'm like, this is getting weird, though, because this is like the second time I've been asked this, right?

kelsey: There's clearly like a rumor going around that is incorrect, at this point

brydie: Yeah. And it's about me, like, going off publicly. Which I was like, I love the drama, but it was

kelsey: slander. Yeah.

brydie: Yeah. Um, So I asked this friend what happened. He said, Oh, apparently, like, it's, you know, because you're, you hooked up with Sam and then you got mad at him

kelsey: Wrong. Double wrong!

brydie: I was like, it just, it wasn't me. I'm, I'm really sorry. And he's like, well, I don't really know the details. So I seek out, uh, Will from his show.

kelsey: Yes. Great.

brydie: So I find Will like on the outside bar. Will is like a really nice guy in a very long term relationship who presumably has been touring with Sam for a while. And it's like, has like, has like had it

kelsey: of course, of course.

brydie: with his kind of stuff. Um, so

kelsey: poor Will, he's just trying to do his Macbeth three person play in peace.

brydie: Trying to be like all the witches at once. He's like, I'm busy. I've got a lot going on in my brain. Um, but yeah, so I went to Will and I was like, Hey, this is really awkward. But, um, there's this rumor going around that I yelled at Sam at your venue and just, you know, I'd never do that. Um, but also I didn't. You know, we just kissed once, like nothing's happened and Will was like, yeah, I know what this is about. So

kelsey: god bless Will, thank you for his service. Incredible. We salute him.

brydie: immediately, I was just like, so I sit down and hear the following story.

kelsey: You're at the performer bar at this point, right? Like there are other people everywhere?

brydie: yeah. And Sam is not there. And that was also weird because Sam was usually out a lot at all of these venues, at all these festivals. That's why we knew each other.

kelsey: Weird. Okay.

brydie: Yeah. So I'm already, I, I, I guess I hadn't thought about it being weird that he wasn't there until then. And then I was like, where is he? He seemed to have sort of gone into hiding.

kelsey: Okay. Well, yeah, because he's the talk of the town

brydie: Yeah. So Will says to me, I'm gonna, I'll explain and and then Will does the like good friend thing of being like Don't let this make you think less of Sam.

kelsey: I would never speak ill of the dead, crosses himself

brydie: Exactly, do a shot, cross yourself

[music/ad break]

brydie: So Will says like, so people think it's you because Sam has like a pretty consistent type.

kelsey: Okay.

brydie: And the person this is does look like you

kelsey: Okay. So like physical traits is his type. Okay.

brydie: Yeah. And at the time I had like a very blunt cut fringe or bangs and like the, and I had like dip dyed hair. And so I guess when I, I was, I did eventually meet this person and I was like, okay, we, I guess we kind of do have a similar look

kelsey: Right. The people from the side stage are like, oh, it's her, look at her hair

brydie: Exactly. The look was essentially like underpaid bisexual in the creative arts. It was like—

kelsey: yeah, I know about that look, I know all about that look

brydie: oddly consistent. Um, so apparently Sam had, I guess, a couple of nights after I had had this interaction with him. Um, had gone to the performance bar attached to his venue. And this, uh, woman who worked at the venue, but in a different space was at the bar—

kelsey: Fake Brydie.

brydie: Yeah. Fake Brydie. Exactly. So Fake Brydie is there. Um, God knows initially if Sam thought we were the same person, but, um, I really wouldn't put it past him at this point

kelsey: Uh huh. That's a good own.

brydie: Um, So he definitely like he starts hitting on this young woman and it turns out like she's seen the play and she loves it. And she thinks he's like, amazing. And again—

kelsey: [fan voice] I love Macbeth.

brydie: Macbeth is so hot and so is Lady Macbeth who you are also playing

kelsey: Yeah. Everyone says that.

brydie: And so she was like, Oh, I think you're really talented and I'm working at the venue now but like I also want to be in theater. So it seems like a really nice like cute match. Um, so they stay there drinking and I also think a lot of people saw this happen and might have thought it was me then as well.

kelsey: [laughs] Okay.

brydie: Because it seems to have all happened quite publicly at the start. So they all have some, they have some drinks and then he's like, do you want to come home with me? And she's like, yeah. And—

kelsey: Okay. So we have the same play that we have already seen with you at the bar now with Fake Brydie, but she chooses yes. Okay.

brydie: Yeah. And, you know, fair play to her, one further week into the festival, I probably would have as well, but I think it was like opening night, I was keeping my options a little more open, you know? Um, and so she's like, okay. And he says like, come back to mine and I've got whiskey there and like, let's have a whiskey and like hang out.

kelsey: Sure. Great.

brydie: So they're walking home and. Um, they start talking about how they both like really into like games and like game nights.

kelsey: Okay, sure. Yeah.

brydie: And that's like, okay, that's a fun thing they have in common. Um, So they get home and he pours them both whiskey and they're drinking and she is like, I feel pretty drunk, but like, fun drunk, you know?

kelsey: Sure. Okay.

brydie: Um, and she definitely assumes that he is also like, fun drunk. I'm feeling fun drunk. We're at like about the same level and it's like a good first hookup level of drunk.

kelsey: Sure. Great.

brydie: So he's like, Oh, I really wish that we were, you know, in my flat in like the major city that I live in, but it's not this one, you know, it's got lots of board games and we could play board games.

kelsey: Open my board game closet and reveal Clue, and we could play it

brydie: We could just like do a weird, like six hour settlers of catan at like one in the morning

kelsey: That's what every girl wants to be brought back to your flat, served a whiskey and then forced into a six hour board game at one in the morning. It's perfect. Thank you, Sam. Okay, continue

brydie: Well, yeah, so she's like, oh, um, yeah, you know, obviously that'd be cool. But like, she is like, feeling quite flirty and quite fun. And she's like, you know, we don't really need a board game. Why don't we play a game like, you know, like hide and seek?

kelsey: Okay, I'm immediately confused by this, but I like it. Okay. Please.

brydie: I think it's very important to note that she suggested Hide and Seek, not him.

kelsey: I'm terrified. My body is filled with terror.

brydie: Again, everyone's fine. So he's like, yeah, let's play Hide and Seek. And she's like, well, why don't I make it like... extra special when you find me. So she starts taking her clothes off.

kelsey: Right. Naked hide and seek.

brydie: Naked hide and seek. And he's like, that's hot. Like, great. Let's do that. They are drinking more whiskey and she's taking her clothes off and it's like very sexy. And then she's like, okay, count to 10. So he counts to 10 and, um, at first he like finds her quickly. And it's like a funny joke. She's like, Oh, I'm going to like, you know, do better this time. So I guess just to back up slightly, the place we're all staying in, um, is, so what a lot of these festivals happen in cities where there is normally like, they're big university towns.

kelsey: Sure. Okay.

brydie: But it happens in like the summer or in the break

kelsey: Oh my God. So you're like in a dorm?

brydie: Yeah. So a lot of us, a lot of us are staying in essentially university accommodation. And, and Sam is as well. Um, and this is not reflective on the quality of the show. This is what we all—

kelsey: Yes. I have a, I have a question before you continue. Um, in this university housing, is the bathroom shared?

brydie: Uh, usually, but only with like the people that you're doing a show with. A weird quirk, which I guess isn't necessarily relevant to the story, a weird quirk, and this particular vessel is that we all had for a long time, I would always stay in rooms which had a sink in my room, but nothing else. It would always felt very strange because I was like, why am I doing anything else? Why am I just constantly expected to be washing up in here? Like, very odd layout.

kelsey: Yeah, now that I think about it, my college dorm had a sink in it, but nothing else. Which is like, sure, I guess you can brush your teeth in private, but that's like the least of the private things you need to do. So it doesn't really help you

brydie: It was like they went far enough with the plumbing to give sinks and then we're like, oh, but that's it up. Like a brick and bars.

kelsey: Yeah, those you have to share. Okay, I'm sorry I got distracted by the toilet situation. She's going to hide again, is where you were.

brydie: So she's going to hide again. So... Sam starts counting to 10. Um, and he goes like to his bed and like closes that constant. And she goes to, um, it's in a big room because I think it's usually a double room. Um, so she goes to a wardrobe and she gets in and pulls the door closed and it's like, you can see out of it. So it's got like, um, reasonably like it's aerated and everything.

kelsey: Sure. Okay.

brydie: But presumably either because it's cheap university accommodation or for some sort of security reason, this, this, this cupboard locks.

kelsey: Yeah, of course it does because she got in it and closed it. That's how it works. Yeah, sure.

brydie: So she gets in and it's just like his hanging things. So like some shirts and jackets, but otherwise pretty spacious. And she's like, haha, very funny. And she realizes that Sam's not saying anything.

kelsey: Oh no.

brydie: And it's because Sam has passed out. Um, I think like an evening—

kelsey: Wake up!

brydie: Yeah. So an evening of drinking, plus then coming home and drinking. Presumably quite a lot of whiskey while preparing for Naked Hide and Seek, um, was just a bridge too far for Sam.

kelsey: Not only is she now locked in a cupboard, but it's like you think you're playing this little sexy game that everyone's very into and now Sam is asleep.

brydie: Totally passed out. So, she tries calling out for a while, and nothing happens, and she hangs on it, and nothing happens.

kelsey: Oh my god.

brydie: And eventually, she just takes... One of his jackets and puts it on sure and lies down and like kind of curls So it's like one of those wardrobes like built in so she's like lying on the ground above the ground, but she is just like lying in a jacket.

kelsey: Got it. Oh my god. Thank god it's a big wardrobe

brydie: Yeah, she did say I will say I did it eventually have this conversation with her Um, she did say it was not comfortable, but also she had also done that not So she'd also been drinking and it was like four in the morning or something at this point. She's like, I'm just going to sleep. Right. So she goes to sleep. Now the next day, Sam wakes up pretty early because he has fallen asleep in all of his clothes on the bed and he gets up and he thinks, God, I feel awful, right? I'm going to take myself out to breakfast.

kelsey: Oh, Sam. I wish you would think what happened to the girl that I was playing hide and seek with. That would be a good thing to think.

brydie: It would be good if he remembered at that point this had happened at all. Um, and instead he stands up and he goes to the front and he's like, I'm going to go and get myself like a cooked breakfast.

kelsey: Oh my God.

brydie: And he leaves.

kelsey: Great.

brydie: So she's asleep at this point, Fake Brydie, and sort of wakes up to hear, like, the door closing. Right. Like, Sam. Sam. Nothing. So here's where Will picks the story up. Because Will gets up to go to use the bathroom in their, like, shared flat. Right. And here's someone just yelling, Sam! What the fuck, man? Sam! Where are you? And Will is like, oh, Sam. And initially he's like, I'm not gonna, he's having a fight with someone.

kelsey: Right. Leave him alone. Privacy. Sure.

brydie: Yeah. But then the yelling just continues. Sam's not saying anything.

kelsey: Yeah.

brydie: So Will knocks on the door and is like, Hey, everything okay? And this woman's voice is like, it's not okay. So Will comes in is like, this room is empty, right?

kelsey: He's like, there's no one here.

brydie: He's like, it's haunted. Like this is an old building. What is going on? And she's like, I'm in the cupboard.

kelsey: Oh my.

brydie: So, so will's like, oh God. Oh God, Sam, what have you done? So he goes over and he's like, open the cupboard. He opens it and there is just this woman naked in one of Sam's jackets and she storms out and she is, She is livid, as you would be. She's so mad

kelsey: Yeah. she spent a night in a cupboard. Of course she's mad.

brydie: Yeah, absolutely furious. She's pulling her clothes on, everything like that. Will is like, I'm not really sure what happened. I'm so sorry. Do you need, like, I cannot emphasize enough that Will is like, a very nice person. And he was like, do you need me to take you somewhere? Has something happened to you? Like he jumped into the protective, good, like, I don't care if it's my friend, you tell me. She's like. No, nothing happened with your friend. Your friend passed out on the bed and Will is like, okay. But why were you in the cupboard? Yeah. And Will I think is also like, okay, that's bad, but like nothing that I, nothing so bad has happened. And she's like. Oh, I'm like so mad. She pulls her clothes on. She keeps Sam's jacket. She was like, I'm taking this with me.

kelsey: Good for her

brydie: She like walks out. So Will then goes to wake up like the other member of their group and is like, we have to find Sam. So they go downstairs and they find like their local cafe where Sam—

kelsey: Happily eating his like beans and toast

brydie: Exactly, just scrolling his phone, having like a big breakfast and Will comes in and is like, Hey, buddy. Did you hook up with someone last night? And Sam's like, no. Yes. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. No, I did.

kelsey: *Sam*

brydie: And Will's like, and did you bring her home? And Sam says, no, no. I didn't. We were going to, but then, and then just kind of fades out.

kelsey: Sam? Hmm.

brydie: Something happened, and Will was like, Well, if you didn't bring her home, who is the person that I just let out of your wardrobe?

kelsey: [cackles]

brydie: And Sam's like, Oh. Okay. I think I know what happened here.

kelsey: Sam! Buddy!

brydie: He is not concerned about this at all. He's like, Oh, that's funny. And Will's like, I don't think she's at funny yet. Um, I think—

kelsey: Right, she'll be at funny in five years, but for now she's pissed

brydie: So mad. So. Uh, Will's like, you need to get in touch with her, you need to apologize. Sam's like, I don't have her number, I wouldn't know how to do that. Will's like, well, I recognize her as someone who works in our, the building that our venue is in. So like, could you try and find her? Sam's like, I'm sure it's fine, don't worry about it.

kelsey: Oh my God, this dummy!

brydie: Yeah. I mean, I will say a thing I think about Sam having known him for many years, um, is that I do think that dummy is kind of the best way of putting it. Cause like not someone who I think ever intended harm on anyone

kelsey: Right, he doesn't seem malicious, right? He's not like, Oh, haha. I locked this girl in a cupboard. He's like, Oh, that's just a funny little thing that happened to us while I was asleep.

brydie: I will say a strange thing about it as Will recounted to me was that like, Sam didn't seem hugely surprised by this turn of events.

kelsey: Right.

brydie: Which really makes me wonder, like, what the rest of his dating life was like. And, like, maybe why that relationship had fallen apart before this.

kelsey: Yeah, I just have so many questions for him. Like, the main one is just, like, how many things are happening, happening to you that when your, like, teammate, your co person comes up to you and is like, I've released a prisoner from your cupboard. You're like, yeah, yeah, yeah, that sounds right.

brydie: You're like, that checked out. I'm going to order another coffee. Like, it does not, it doesn't seem to work. Um, but so Will had been like, okay, well, I think you need to say something. Um, the other member of the group I think is just like head down on the table like I can't believe we're going through this. Um, and Sam's like, yeah, yeah, if I, if I see her, I'll definitely apologize.

kelsey: Oh my god, you're certainly going to see her again because you work at the same place.

brydie: For a whole, and you're going to be there for a month. So that night they get to their venue and they're getting ready and they're setting their props and they're, you know, getting everything ready. Um, And someone at their venue, one of the venue staff, comes in and is like, Um, I don't know, I don't really know how to say this, but there's like, a girl at the front talking shit to the audience who are about to come and see your show.

kelsey: Uh!

brydie: And Sam's like, that's weird. And Will's like, Sam, do you think you might know something about this?

kelsey: Poor Will, he's the parent here.

brydie: Which is awful. Um, and so, Sam is like, oh, do you think it might be her? Oh, okay.

kelsey: Yeah, no shit, bud.

brydie: Yeah, so Sam's like, oh, we'll just do the show. And the person from the venue's like, Yeah, like maybe—this was like their tech person who's normally in the booth—is like, I think it might be worth like just going and like checking out what's happening.

kelsey: Yeah, I agree.

brydie: So originally Sam's like, well, should we go out? And Will's like, you go. I'm not, no, I'm not going out there

kelsey: Yeah, good for him.

brydie: So Sam goes out. So Fake Brydie had had a day off work and had basically, which I think is why she'd gone out the night before as well. So she goes back to her flatmates and tells them the story.

They all, to be honest, think it's pretty funny, but are also like, this guy sucks. She's like, he does suck. He does suck. And I had a crush on him because I saw him in the show and I thought he was so good. So she's having some drinks with friends. She's like feeling pretty ready to like, you know, and her friends are like, well, you should go tell him what you think.

kelsey: enablers, all of them.

brydie: I love it. I mean, I would have done the exact same thing.

kelsey: same

brydie: I really respect her flatmates being like, you should tell him.

kelsey: Strong same

brydie: She goes to the venue and they're like, yeah, sorry, we can't let you in. They're getting ready for the show. And she's like, well, I really need to talk to him. And meanwhile, because of the way the festival works, people are just lining up outside the door, waiting to go in. Constant crowds going in and out. And this is a popular show and it's well reviewed.

kelsey: So she has a captive audience.

brydie: Absolutely. It's like a play before the play. Um, and so what apparently happened is someone in the crowd was like, are you okay, miss? Like, what's wrong? And she was like, am I okay? Yeah, I'm okay now, but I just spent last night in the wardrobe of this guy and he just tells this assembled crowd what, she's like, Oh, and he passes out and then I have to sleep in the, and all these people in the crowd are like, Oh my God. And then some of them are like, it's part of it. It's part of the show. And also their show was like very serious. So if this was part of it, it would have been like such a weird tone shift.

kelsey: Yeah, truly.

brydie: Um, and so she like tells the crowd and she works at the venue. So she knows a lot of people working there. So they're not gonna be like, you need to go. So she's like—

kelsey: Yeah, I also imagine that if you are the staff at this venue, you have interacted with this man enough to know that like, he's not the one you want to defend,

brydie: Right. They're like, you know what? You go off and we'll, we'll, we'll

kelsey: We'll simply not see you.

brydie: So Sam comes out and she's like, that's him. That's the one who left me in the wardrobe. He's like, hey, I'm so sorry. Um, yeah, you know, I just had too much to drink and fell asleep. And she's like, I was in the wardrobe all night. And he's like, yeah, yeah, and definitely my bad. And, and she's like, why didn't you get me out in the morning? He's like, oh, and here he says in front of the crowd, I forgot you were there.

kelsey: Oh no, this is a huge mistake.

brydie: So babe, he's like, but anyway, it was so cool to see you again. Would love to catch up again.

I have to go and do my show. And he just—

kelsey: Babe, no. Oh my god.

brydie: She felt kind of like diffused by the situation, but also like, I don't know. So she leaves, and then the show then, to the crowd of people—

kelsey: who know that this guy locked a girl in— [laughs]

brydie: And they did. Will was like, it was a weird show.

kelsey: I bet!

brydie: It was a really weird show. The like, laugh lines in the show didn't get anything, and also people kept just talking to each other.

kelsey: Right! Because everybody in the crowd is looking at this guy being like him? Can you believe that?

brydie: He's like trying to deliver some beautiful soliloquy and they're like, how, but how drunk was he though?

kelsey: Like, you forgot she was in the cupboard?

brydie: He needed breakfast that badly? So they do this show and basically afterwards, Will and the other guy on the show are like, Man, can you just, like, lay low for a while? Like, clearly you're going through some things with this breakup, and Sam's like, oh, it's not because of the breakup, and they were like, let's say it is, because that is better.

kelsey: Yeah, if it's not because of the breakup, don't tell people that.

brydie: Like, this is just who I am.

kelsey: Yeah, that's way worse. Way worse.

brydie: Yeah, and so what essentially happens is Sam agrees. He's like, I'm just gonna do this show, I'm gonna lay low, whatever. But what happens is that the story of this spreads rapidly. I'm performing in a different venue, but the venue staff talk, and that's how it kind of comes back. And then the way it transmutes is eventually that it was me.

kelsey: Right.

brydie: And all this kind of stuff. And so I, when I received the story, I was like, this is incredible. I'm definitely not going to hook up with Sam.

kelsey: Yeah, yeah.

brydie: So it's been at the back of my mind.

kelsey: Decision made.

brydie: Yeah. Um, thank you to Brave Fake Brydie for like, you know, testing the waters for me.

kelsey: Yeah. Thank you for her service. She really... went to war

brydie: I mean, she really did. And for, for a lot of us, because kind of Sam did stay in for most of that month after that. Um, and I, I did then meet her. So I was over at that venue bar and I said to someone else, like, who is it? it was her. And I went and chatted to her and she was like, really cool. And she was like, look, I'm not upset anymore. And she's like, but if I had the chance to yell at him in front of a crowd of people again, I absolutely would. You know, totally fine. So she'd like kind of recovered from it. Um, and I, I saw Sam again at the end of the month at the closing party and he did hit on me again.

kelsey: Classic. Of course he did.

brydie: And I was like, Do you want to lock me in a wardrobe? Is that, like, your, like, thing now? And he, like, laughed, and he was like, Oh, crazy times.

kelsey: Oh my god.

brydie: Just like, you know how these things happen in the everyday course of dating.

kelsey: No! No, I don't

brydie: But honestly, like, everyone out of this story ended up kind of, is now in, like, so much of a better place in life, like

kelsey: That's great. Yeah.

brydie: So Sam ended up getting married to someone he met not that long after this.

kelsey: Okay. Congratulations.

brydie: It was like wild times and Will was his best man at the wedding. So that's really nice.

kelsey: that is really nice

brydie: You know, their relationship has survived. I don't know about the third guy who I didn't know as well, but, um, those two like have remained close. And then, um, Fake Brydie who had been like, Oh, I want to work in theater, went on to be quite a successful producer, which she's still doing

kelsey: great!

brydie: She was like, pretty young and she was like working in the venue and it's now like

kelsey: I mean, her understanding of audiences, it makes sense to me that she, you know, could capture that in a career

brydie: Yeah. I haven't followed it that closely, but maybe she's doing like sleep no more style, immersive theater production.

kelsey: That would rule.

brydie: Yeah. That would be amazing. She's like, I was just inspired by this one moment in my life. Um, but yeah, and so everyone kind of came out of it okay, but this story followed me I think more than this other girl, literally for years.

kelsey: Yeah, because everyone saw you flirt with him the first night and so everyone was like, oh, it must be her.

brydie: Yeah, and to the point that like, a couple of years later at a festival in an entirely different country. An audience member said, Oh, I heard from a friend who did this festival, like you hooked up with the guy from that play um, who is like, is not like famous, but is like successful and uh, and—

kelsey: One, rude question, two, like, I cannot believe that the like friend of a friend rumor mill betrayed you like this

brydie: I know, but to be honest, I was like, you know, live by the gossip, die by the gossip.

kelsey: Hell yeah

brydie: It's gonna be my, like. That's fine. And every time I was just like, it wasn't me.

kelsey: Well, you don't want to steal Valor. That's kind of you.

brydie: Yeah, I mean, she literally, she tore him apart in front of strangers. I can't, that's iconic behavior. I can't.

kelsey: Fake Brydie's revenge. She got it!

brydie: But yeah, it was like the most recent time I saw Sam now must have been like four years ago or something. And we ran into each other and I said to him, This story has dogged me for years and Sam was like, but that wasn't even you. And then he paused and went, Ooh, was it?

kelsey: He is a demon. Like I, I, it can accept that he was just a demon for a period of time potentially, but for that period of time, he was just purely demonic. The idea of being like, it wasn't you that I locked in a closet. Someone I saw every day at multiple circuits. Was it?

brydie: Yeah, that's, that's it. That's the weird cupboard story that has defined my life despite not being mine.

kelsey: Well, I appreciate you bringing it here where this will only get worse for you, I'm sure, because everyone will remember this, but thank you so much for bringing us this story. This was a delight and I'm, I'm glad that you didn't have to sleep in the cupboard. Because it seems very uncomfortable.

brydie: Thank you so much. Thank you for having me. It's been so much fun.

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