

PIECES OF MY LIFE

Written by

Kirris Riviere

Based on, my life Journey.

Location: Polyphen studios Making a podcast. Set in Kirris's new small home studio called Polyphen productions. Kirris went through CBT, Cognitive behavioural therapy. Kirris is coming to the end of his journal.

He decides to read it from start to finish as his counselling session's comes to a natural end. Kirris Decides to bravely share his life experience via a podcast. Claire, is in another room mixing the sound.

We hear Claire through the headphones eagerly trying to help him. Room expands when Kirris's imagination takes over. Kirris headphones on, sat down looking into the camera. Silence for 12 seconds. Listening to Pieces of my life.

CLAIRE

Great thats sounding good, okay.
Can You hear me alright. Can you
hear me alright?

Slight pause.

KIRRIS

Yep, yep. I think so.

CLAIRE

Good. What you doing? Are you
faffing around?

KIRRIS

Yeah give me a moment.

CLAIRE

Alright.

Slight pause.

Now, lets get that new yeti plugged
in. Right, okay. So you plug it in.

KIRRIS

How do you do.....

Claire interrupts

CLAIRE

If we get this done, yeti might
start sponsoring. Right okay, so
you plug it in the bottom. Alright
and then, switch it on.

KIRRIS
Testing, testing. 123. Testing 123.
testing....

CLAIRE
I can't remember the last time I
heard anyone say testing 123.

KIRRIS
What else do you expect me to say,
I'm just checking its on.

CLAIRE
Okay, okay. Sorry Chicken. Okay
right, now sit back on this a
little bit, because it really picks
things up and it's multi
directional so you really don't
have....

Kirris interrupts.

KIRRIS
Okay okay, can you hear me.

CLAIRE
Yeah, thats perfect.

KIRRIS
Good, excellent.

CLAIRE
Absolutely perfect now, remember
I've got this. I've got your back
and you... just talk normally away
from the mic and I'll sort the mix
out. If you want to pause or make a
mistake or anything like that,
thats fine. I can edit it. And if
you get your headphones.

Okay, plug the headphones in, you
see that other bit?

KIRRIS
Yeah. Got it.

CLAIRE

Then you'll be able to hear
yourself during the recording, okay
your in safe hands chicken.

Slight pause.

KIRRIS

I feel the importance to share my
life story, up to this point.

CLAIRE

Try again and not too close!

Kirris coughs.

KIRRIS

Okay is this alright.

Kirris readjusts.

CLAIRE

Perfect. Chicken.

KIRRIS

I feel the importance to share my
life story, up to this point with
this Podcast.

Initially I was advised by my
counsellor to have frank
discussions with myself. You know,
as a way to acknowledge personal
issues... After experiencing a
bereavement.

Slight pause.

You see, my perception of life
hasn't been the same and my drive
to share my life story to anyone
that wanted to listen has become my
perfect distraction....

Slight pause

Mum would say, You never know what
blessings will come through the
hardest of situations.

Pause

She was right. She was a writer, in her own right. She bought a typewriter but unfortunately never managed to use it, mum wrote on everything....Poems On envelopes, stories in note books, interesting quotes at the back of her word-search books....

Pause

When mum was here I was much more contented, it felt like I was able to bounce off most forms of negativity....

Long pause.

CLAIRE

Kirris? You okay?

KIRRIS

Yeah, you know. I just, don't know if I can say certain things, thats all.

CLAIRE

Look, this is a brilliant idea, it really is. Honestly, more men should try it. And you know that people are going to benefit from this.

KIRRIS

Yeah your right.

CLAIRE

You got all those experiences in your journal, how they shaped your life, just talk with an honesty, just like your counsellor suggested.

KIRRIS

Okay, okay.

Pause.

This journal I'm about to read is full of situations, stories, memories. Collected through my counselling sessions.

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KIRRIS (CONT'D)

Initially to try and make sense of my new reality. You know, the one without mum, the reality I never subscribed too...

Slight pause

Now its to try and help people understand alternative realities....I Don't know, maybe to potentially change some peoples minds. One of the biggest hurdles in my life a part from being dyslexic is racism. At least with dyslexia it can help you to think outside the so called box. In all its toxicity, racism can put you in one. Yet it has not beaten me and I thank my mum for that.

Pause As his shoulders come down Kirris's confidence is growing.

With the recent events that took place, it finally feels like the walls of white dominance is being breeched, even if it sometimes feels like it's just an egg hitting the wall.

The current shift in attitude towards equality, white allies willing to die so that I can be more equal is honourable, but why did it take a pandemic and 8 minutes and 46 seconds of watching a man dying for people to realise the....Four hundred years of inequalities. I suppose that will be debated in future seminars.

My counsellor is white, he's been most helpful... So what does white supremacy mean to me? Angry at the world is an understatement.

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KIRRIS (CONT'D)

Expecting to cope with life's pressures is nigh on impossible, yet as I'm saying this I can feel my brain trying to auto correct my emotions. In order to not appear too forthright, aggressive, uppity. The daily internal conflict of living after your world gets ripped apart.

Pause, change in thought.

Can you get my socks, they're in the middle draw...

In Kirris's ear he hears Claire, so does the audience..

CLAIRE

Why in the world would you not be wearing socks?

Kirris looks at the mic. Headphones off.

KIRRIS

She's white, my girlfriend Claire is white.
Well pink with an olive tint, beautiful brown eyes and cute as a button.

Smile, change of thought.

I can get used to this, I would have never thought about sharing my personal experiences with strangers, its def...in...it...ely cathartic. Are you recording this!!!

Knock on the door, a cuppa tea with socks is provided.

Thanks Claire.

Pause A TEXT message is heard. The audience are able to see Tieran's photo and his texts as well as the replies on screen.

Sorry dad, I'm not able to make it.

Kirris talks to the mic.

From a previous relationship.

Slight pause.

He means the world to me both of them gives me the strength to carry on, especially after losing mum. I ask, how can this be fair, after years of trying to look after mum and the amount of conversations back and forth between us, mum giving me advice on life even while she...was the one needing all the help. She cared more for me and Tieran than herself.

My dad wasn't around much so mum was both parents combined. I couldn't wish for a better mother. My mum always used to say. "My son, my one and only son."

Pause

Hang on, pause the recording, i'm replying to Tieran's text.

Texting Is everything okay son?

Pause

Carry on.

I wouldn't want any other, my son means the world to me... My son, my one and only son. He's definitely not a morning person, that's for sure. He's in university, psychology, proper academic.

I was going to take him out today, only to Asda, help him out with his weekly shopping but no, I will not be buying his alcohol. Mum used to love shopping. She absolutely loved Asda!

Suddenly we hear bits of Enoch Powell 'Rivers of Blood' speech, the mood changes. Kirris internalises..

So why take one of the only things
on this planet that made me feel
whole!

Powell's speech distorts as it fades but Kirris carries on loudly talking over it.

Sorry.

CLAIRE

What for?

KIRRIS

Well, if i'm honest...This is my internal dialogue which is always switched on, constantly in debate and according to whoever wins the debate, determines the day I have.

CLAIRE

Good, and thats what your being. Honest.If you want to share that, I think it'll be useful. I don't want to keep stopping you but...

Pause

People have more things in common than they think.

KIRRIS

Okay, so yes. Ladies and gentlemen I have a committee in my head, does that sound weird? I'm not sure and at this stage I no longer give a.... No longer give a damn.

Pause

I don't want to be feeling like this all the time. If I am honest with myself this feeling of despair is there way more than I let on, because life's already hard without racism being a factor. But believe you me, it is! Even when mum was around I felt that being black and British pressure.

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KIRRIS (CONT'D)

But in her presence, it was way less.

Pause.

I always wanted to share my story to be able to appear as a flawed, multifaceted, and insecure vulnerable yet sometimes optimistic...human being.

Change of thought

That's why my foot is cold, I'm getting carried away with this, I forgot to put on those blooming socks... but its helping, and it feels therapeutic.

Socks on and shoes. We see images of Kirris, his mum and son. He stands and continues talking to himself. The room gets bigger.

Most of the time she was optimistic and through her optimism there was magic, as in all things were possible as long as you try your best. Mum always said to me to "follow your dreams. Encouraging me to pursue my love of acting after seeing me playing Mr Bumble in a secondary school musical production of Oliver.

I remember before treading the boards not really knowing what I wanted to become, and being persuaded not to go down the performance route by peers at the time that thought the idea of me wanting to become an actor a bit queer. This was the 90's. I didn't let that response phase me though and while most of my friends got jobs in the construction business, I went on doing what I felt was right for me. I believe this was all down to being surrounded by encouragement.

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KIRRIS (CONT'D)

Many years later when mum became ill, that self belief in all things possible became a beacon for both of us.

In the hope that as long as you try your best, all things were possible, things will be okay, things will be fine. Mum was ill for twelve years, she had kidney failure and later on developed osteoporosis, but remained positive right up to the very end. She used to say. "Appreciate each day as if it was your last because tomorrow isn't promised to no one, gotta be grateful for the things you have and try not to worry about what you don't have. Love is the key.

"

I'm slightly paraphrasing that but she was definitely an optimist and yes, she sounded incredibly Bristolian.

Sound system Dj sound effect is heard

DJ

Rewind my selector

The sound of a record being rewound, kirris nods his head in approval. An image of St Barnabas primary school in the 1980's appears on the projector, heavily influenced digital 80's reggae music starts to play but in ambient form.

KIRRIS

My memory of my first day at primary school is blurry, I think I was extremely tired that day, subsequently I Don't remember too much from that time of my life only the feeling of getting into fights and not really enjoying it there.

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Luckily for me my Aunty just landed a new job as a researcher at the BBC's Centre of Excellence.

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