

BLUE Card 1
Jo Dyer Transcript

How did you first meet KT?

2.10.59 K and I met in 1986 when we were both trying out for the South Australian debating team. She was in Year 10 so I discounted her as competition, actually, because previously the team had only been selected from years 11 and 12. So, but there was no stopping K, as it turned out.

What was she like?

2.11.10 K was... well, she was a star, really. She was a woman with sharp... she was a girl with sharp intelligence, rigorous intellect, she was warm, she had a compelling eloquence. She was a winning combination, really, of poise and shyness. Confidence, and insecurity, as many girls aged 15 can be. She was quite serious, which is what made her such a strong speaker. She spoke with a seriousness of intent. And I think that's why she enjoyed so much being in a team - the camaraderie and the repartee and occasional silliness that being part of a group of that kind can engender.

2.13.32

Me: So in her school magazine, it described her as having amazing success as a public speaker. It said the school has good reason to be proud of Kate [REDACTED] ate has a great future as a stockbroker, diplomat or a politician. (J: Stockbroker!!) So 1980s, isn't it?

2.14.00 Well yes, she really was... In the world of debating, there were many stars shining in the firmament. But K really shone the brightest, or certainly one of the brightest. She had such charisma and we all imagined that her life would be one of skyrocketing success of achievement. In 1988 she was selected as captain of the Australian schools debating team, in a competition that spawned leading politicians, leading journalists, academics, TV stars. She should have been right up there with them. And her trajectory was derailed. And she did not achieve everything that the potential that she showed back then would have suggested that she would.

2.15.02 Now, her life was in no way without meaning and achievement. Had some degree of academic success, she had meaningful relationships, she created art, wrote great poetry, she had some of her writings published. But, if you knew her back then, and imagined what her life would be, we all imagined something very different for Kate.

2.15.32 Louise: Certainly, all of the people in her friendship circle from those debating times that I have spoken to have all been distinctly impressive people who have had successful careers.

2.15.48 Jo: Yeah. And Kate's career should have been as impressive as anyone's. She was the one who had been selected as the best of the best. In 1987 when we in the state debating team and we one the state championship that year, she was selected for the Australian team then, for her first outing, and then as captain the following year. 2.16.22 We, all of us,

we all had great confidence and a sense and potential of what life could be, of what our lives could be. But hers should have been a life of great achievement, great success. She deserved that, based on her talent that she possessed, the commitment that she brought to the things that she did, the rigour of her engagement with ideas, her curiosity with the world and in people. 2.17.00 There's no reason why Kate could not have been a stockbroker, a politician, or a diplomat.

L: When did you notice things changing?

J: 2.17.11 Well, K and I were not in touch for many years. We stayed in touch - we were both at the uni of Adelaide in the late eighties and early nineties. But after I finished school, I went on a gap year to Germany so we lost touch.

L: In 1988 she went into the national debating - could you talk me through where you were in relation to that point...

J: In 1987 I was in Yr 12, Kate was in Yr 11 and we were together in the South Australian state debating team. Then in '88 I was on my gap year and she was in Year 12, so she had another year - she was three years in the South Australian debating team.

2.18.38

It was in '88 I was overseas. That was the year I was overseas. (she is trying to get the timeline right in her head).

2.19.04 So in 1987 when I was in the South Australian debating team, up until that point, the Australian debating team had been like the AFL Australian team - like an honorary team which was recognising the best teams in the competition. In 1988, it was with the 1988 team, that the Australian Debating Federation sought to do something different and give them an opportunity to debate. And so that's what brought the Australian National Schools Debating team into the 1988 World Intervarsity Competition. But that year, I was heading off overseas on an exchange as an exchange student, so I was in Sydney during the World Inter Comp, but I was there more as a hang-along, and I was there more with the University of Adelaide people than the schools team. And I then went off overseas for the rest of that year. So when I got back, we were both at the uni of Adelaide. But our paths kind of diverted at that point. Kate got very involved in the feminist movement on campus and was very much focused on her arts and humanities degree, whereas I like so many ertwhile debaters was focused on getting into law school. So we were still friends, but we did not enjoy that intense friendship that we had when we toetther in the team.

L: When you were together in the team, and she was in the national team, was Christian Porter in the team at that point.

J: 2.20.42 So CP was in the WA debating team in 1986. When we first were involved in the national schools debating championships. And he was back in 1987 and it was in 1988 that he was in the national schools debating team alongside Kate.

L: And so did you meet CP at that time? What was he like?

J: 2.21.07 (Pauses) Christian... We met CP in 1986, um, for the first time. he was very charming. He was very confident. Um, we were all quite confident back then. He was.. possibly... he had that assuredness that was perhaps born of privilege. But he was, you know, brash, blond and breezy (smiles). Um 2.21.36 And we were. The South Australian teams and the WA teams did become quite good friends.

L: Knowing what you now know in terms of the allegations that K made about him, is there anything that you saw in his personality that would suggest that he could be capable of something like what she alleged?

J: 2.22.26 (Looks at ceiling) Christian was quite slick. In some ways. And he had an air of entitlement around him that I think was born of the privilege from which he came. At that stage, however, I think he... we... 2.22.50 At that point in time, I think we treated the bombast he brought to bear as nothing out of the ordinary for a private school boy. (L: a debater?) A debater! (shrugs) The debating world, we were all pretty obnoxious! And precocious. And I think what was so exhilarating for us in the world of debating was that we could be obnoxious and precocious together and he was one of many private school boys. So I don't think. So as I say, the WA and SA teams did become friends with us in 1986. It was possibly easier to be friends with us in 1986 when we were losing than it was in 1987 when we were winning. 2.23.46 But I would never have imagined that he would go on to treat K in the way that he did.

L: Did you notice anything developing between them at the time? Do you remember?

J: 2.23.50 (shakes head) No. No. He was a mate. As a team, we were close to the WA team. He was not someone with whom she was specifically close.

L: Did K have any 'issues' quote unquote, before the time that she alleges that this happened? Was there anything about her personality, you know, that showed that she might later develop any kind of depression or mental health problems or anything like that?

J: 2.24.35 Kate.. Kate was sensitive. She was a sensitive soul. She threw herself into things deeply and passionately. The world of debating and public speaking meant an enormous amount to her and the success that she had, I think, was very important to her. But there was nothing in the way K embraced that world or indeed her personality more generally, that would lead you to think that she was going to confront the kind of challenges in her MH that she did in years to come. I think as with so many people, I think that buoyant confidence can sometimes mask an insecurity, and I think she did have insecurities, as many did, about different aspects of her life, of her appearance, but not more so than others, would be my assessment and observation of her.

L: When she went to uni, you say you fell into different circles. But can you pinpoint a time where it became apparent that she wasn't really living up to that huge promise that she had?

J: 2.26.12 I think it would be hard for me to do that, to be honest, because we did move in different circles. We had a bit of a falling out at one point about debating club politics, if you

can believe that. There was an occasion where we were engaged in a bit too aggressive banter that maybe crossed a line, which she didn't appreciate, and that just accelerated the different paths on which we were on. And she then transferred up to UNSW here in Sydney and at that point I didn't know what path she was on until we met up years later.

L: When you reconnected, what did you notice about the difference in K?

J: 2.27.13 When we reconnected, K was a very different person. She.. the thing that you would notice about K was that she was caught on a jag, in a very specific era, around a very specific incident. That really seemed completely consuming and completely debilitating to her. She was consumed with a trauma which she told me, deeply and consistently, was as result of an assault that had occurred, early in 1988, and her life at that point was really devoted to exploring how she could get some kind of justice, accountability and peace from that.

2.28.14 And she was not the kind of person, filled with shining potential. There was still a burning passion there, but it was to try and rectify a wrong. And not to soar to the heights that had previously been her direction.

L: 2.28.33 How did that make you feel?

J: 2.28.35 Well, it was devastating. It was completely devastating. I had not known of the... (audio issue).

2.29.58. I had not known of the assault that had occurred in 1988. I had no idea. So it was devastating that she had not been able to share back then, and tell us, and let us help her and support her. But it was also devastating that she remained so stuck on that herself and that it really been such a defining and pivotal incident in her life. It really felt like that trauma was what had caused her to grapple with all of the challenges of her mental health throughout most of her life. And ultimately what led her to lose those battles which she fought so bravely for so many years.

L: 2.31.04 What made you think that KT was telling the truth?

J: 2.31.08 (sighs, pause) There are a number of reasons why I thought Kate was telling the truth. First and foremost was the story that she told was so clear and so consistent and so detailed. And there was no reason for K to invent a story like that, at all, let alone with the detail that it included. I believed the story. Secondly, really, the incident as she described it was not... 2.32.03 the acts that she described were not something that a 16-year-old virgin would consent to. So there was no ambiguity, it seemed to me, as to whether or not this was a consensual act that got out of hand or anything of that nature. It seemed to me that it was an aggressive and violent act, that no 16 year old having her first sexual encounter would sign up for.

2.32.38 Thirdly, there was a level of sinister detail in it which seemed to me that once the act had occurred and K had resisted that there was strategic thinking around it by C to cover up the evidence. He - K told me - that while she was practically hysterical, and gave her a

bath. They were staying at the Women's College at the University of Sydney. They were shared bathrooms. Why on earth would you do something like that? After a so-called consensual sexual encounter. You wouldn't go traipsing down the hallway to a shared bathroom in the middle of the night or early in the morning.

2.33.43 And there was, as she described it, this mantra that C was repeating, this was just a bad dream, you'll be fine, everything will be OK. Again, extraordinary detail in the story. And an extraordinary thing to say. So those three things, really, I found really persuasive.

2.34.13 And I guess finally, her life was derailed. And many people don't fulfil or achieve the potential that they have. But most people don't end up in and out of mental health institutions, grappling with real trauma, and the way she described the way her life had unfolded, seemed to me from someone almost describing someone suffering from a post-traumatic stress disorder, that are caught on a jag, you can't get past it, it does impact on your capacity to live your life to its fullest.

2.34.55 So there seemed to me to be many reasons why it was likely that Kate was telling the truth. And the fact she was also so steely and determined to try and seek some kind of justice, even at this late stage, knowing the challenges that that might cause, knowing how unlikely it was that pursuing justice as she saw it and on her terms was going to result in some sort of successful prosecution, and that, indeed, it may unleash all sorts of horrifying abuse, or the prosecution of her in the pages of partisan media, or who knows what?

2.35.50 Despite all of those things, she wanted some kind of accountability for the actions that had caused her so much trauma. 2.36.00 I think there was no reason not to believe Kate.

L: Why would you do it?

J: 2.36.04 (nods) Why would you do it? And I think she, and I asked her that explicitly, why, what do you hope to achieve from this, given that you've already been hurt so much by this? And she was really clear that given the way that C had behaved towards her, it was likely that he had behaved that way towards other women. He did not appear to treat women and hold women with respect.

2.36.50 He did not appear to treat women with respect. He did not appear to treat them as equals. And yet here he was, in this position of great authority and great power.

2.37.00 L: The chief law-maker of the nation?

J: 2.37.01 Indeed. Um,, and she did not believe that he deserved to hold those positions of power and authority and she hoped to arrest his ascent through the ranks of government.

2.37.17 So she was clear on that point. This was not a man who should be chief law maker of this country. And certainly not a man who should rise to be Prime Minister, as so many of his cheerleaders seem to suggest he would be. But on top of that, K was at heart an historian. She'd studied history, she'd written a history book, and she wanted to tell her

story. And she wanted her story to be on the record. And if nothing else came of it, it would be there, it would be there on the official record. And it would be shown that she sought accountability and justice for herself as result of what she had suffered.

L: 2.38.07 Did you ever know her to lie?

J: 2.38.99 (shakes her head) No. No. I never knew K to lie. She seemed... she was someone... K was a person of great personal integrity. As an historian she was about the truth and finding the truth. And she was about finding all different aspects of people to a range of people - particularly voices which have not been heard, silenced, women's voices.

2.38.46 I never knew K to be anything other than a honest person of integrity, and honour.

L: 2.38.57 Did she have any political motivation to do this?

J: 2.39.00 No. No (shakes head).

L: What were her politics, what was her political background?

J: 2.39.05 Ah, well, her family was a fairly conservative family. Her father was in the military. So she grew up in quite a patrician household where hard work was to be rewarded, where service and dedication was applauded. She was not in any way involved in partisan politics. We all were! I was involved in the Labor club, we were mates with students who were involved in the Liberal club. There was the to and fro and the hurly burly of student politics. But she wasn't involved in politics in that sense. She did get more involved in women's politics on campus, which, later, she told me was as a direct result of what she had suffered. But her time at university was really more about the pursuit of ideas and study and not political in that sense.

L: 2.40.20 But in terms of her friendships and her relationships, she was actually friends with a lot of people who were involved with the Liberal Party and who are lifelong Liberals?

2.40.32 Yeah! I mean, K wasn't discriminating in her friendships. She had wide social groups. Moving through the world of debating, there were people who were interested in politics on both sides of the fence. And she engaged widely with a whole range of different people. She was not engaged in politics in that sense. But she was attracted to people with curiosity, intellectual curiosity, political curiosity, who wanted to contest ideas. And so she was very active in that world and didn't discriminate between ideologies. She interrogated the argument and enjoyed the cut and thrust of the debate.

L: I guess so at the time when she began to come out with this accusation to her friendship circle, was there any political motivation that she may have had against the Liberal Party or against CP in that sense?

J: 2.41.46 No, there was absolutely no way that any of this was motivated by political concerns. This was a deeply personal issue for her that had impacted all aspects of her life. There was no sense at all that politics were involved. Except for the fact that someone who

was capable of doing this at that age was not worthy of holding political office for either party, for any party, they should not be in a position of leadership in our nation and it would not have mattered which political party C was representing, she would have been as dogged in her pursuit of justice and she would have been as determined to ventilate the story.

L: Some of the people we have spoken to for this story in K's circle are still affiliated with the Liberal Party in a loose sense or a more formal sense. And they supported her and they believed her. What do you think that that says?

J: 2.43.00 I think that it says that she's telling the truth. And that people can see that she's telling the truth. And that a story like this should transcend any political allegiance. That regardless of who you support politically, you should not support a person who engages in this kind of behaviour - this kind of criminal behaviour.

L: When did she first come forward to you?

J: 2.43.24 She got back in contact with me in July last year. Ah, 2019, initially casually... (audio issue).

2.44.08 K got back in contact with me in July 2019 last year - initially seemingly fairly casually through Facebook, but then pretty quickly in the first couple of weeks of that contact, she asked if we could have a phone conversation and then meet, because she wanted to talk to me, as she put it, 'about some shit CP pulled on me in January 1988'. I was shocked.

2.44.51 (slight stumble) Initially, I was very pleased to hear from Kate, but when she raised this issue, I immediately suspected that it would have to be something sexually inappropriate. Given the environment in which we were, or which we are living. But I had no idea what it was. And so we ended up talking initially on the phone, in great detail, and then meeting up. So this would have been the first week of August.

L: 2.45.22 She made contact with a lot of people and disclosed to a lot of people at that time - July-August last year. Do you have any idea, did she make it clear in any way why it was that it was then that she had come forward to everyone?

J: 2.45.39 She didn't, no. She didn't specifically say why it was that she was now coming forward and talking about these issues. Obviously times supported the raising of issues, however historical. It did appear that there was a movement perhaps that would be more sympathetic to women raising stories - however old - and that there could be belated accountability.

L: 2.46.14 The MeToo movement?

J: 2.46.15 The MeToo movement, yes. So I think that played a part in it. I know that subsequent allegations that were raised about behaviour in the Liberal Party more generally really buoyed her. She really did begin to believe that there might be some reckoning, whatever form it may take. She had been fighting this battle for a long time. And there had

been times where she was winning and where she was in despair. So, it could have been as simple as she felt a strength in that moment, given the reckonings that were going on. She wasn't explicit as to why she chose that moment. But she did embark on a path then which she demonstrated a determination to see it through.

L: Was there any sense that it was a repressed memory that was uncovered by a psychologist or a psychiatrist or anything like that? Was there any suggestion that that is what took place here?

J: 2.47.43 No. There was no suggestion that this was a repressed memory. I mean, she had been talking to psychiatrists, clearly, for a big portion of her life. But I think, I mean, she, I never got a sense of that, no.

L: She never told you I was in therapy and then... etc etc.

J: 2.48.21 The challenges that she had had with her mental health through her life meant that she had had significant engagement with the mental health system over her life. But there was never any sense that they were trying to uncover some sort of source to her problems. I think she had reached a point in her life where she was exhausted by carrying the burden and she was going to share it. And there were many of us that she spoke to, but there were many of us that were willing to support and help her carry that burden to the extent that we could and of course (she starts to cry) we couldn't do everything that we hoped, but, we did what we could. Sorry. (bends her head and cries 2.49.18. Looks back up at camera) We did what we could.

L: I know it's tough. I guess what was it that you thought led her to make the terrible decision that she finally did? Can you make sense of that?

J: 2.49.41 I don't know. (I ask if she wants a tissue and we cut to allow her to do that).

CLIP TWO:

2.50.36

L: You're a law graduate, I'm a law graduate, we both know what happens in cross-examination of people in these circumstances. Someone would say to K, 'you went to counselling, all these years. You saw a psychiatrist. You saw a psychologist. Why didn't you tell them? Why didn't you tell them before? Why didn't this come out before?'

J: 2.51.08 Look, I can't answer that. I think Kate, initially K hoped this would not be the defining issue of her life. She did go on to have some success as a debater afterwards. She sought comfort in friendships after this incident. I think she hoped that she could leave it behind - not so much to repress it, but to move on from it. But it did become clear to her that there was no moving on from this. It wouldn't have been helped by the fact that she was seeing on television daily the person that had perpetrated this act of violence on her. I think that caused her a great deal of anguish. Um grief, but anger. As well. So I think she reached a point where she thought she was strong enough to deal with the consequences of

speaking out. She thought the environment into which she would be speaking was perhaps more sympathetic to women who had experienced this sort of act against them. And she felt that if she didn't she would be plagued by the issue for the rest of her life.

2.52.43

I think the cost to her then of not speaking out was higher than the cost of staying silent. I think that's the judgement she reached. Whether she could have done it earlier, the fact that she didn't would suggest that she didn't have the strength at that time.

L: 2.53.10 Kate was 16 at the time of the alleged assaults, the Royal Commission, I don't know if you're familiar with findings about people, children, as she was still legally a child, who are abused, but they routinely take decades, in fact the average is 20-something years for them to disclose this sort of thing. Are you familiar with that kind of information?

J: Not intimately familiar. But 2.53.46 the idea that people bury their suffering, they seek to move on from, to turn away from the source of great pain, particularly when they think the possibility of real redress is so remote. That the consequences of talking out would be too great. So, I think she hoped to distract herself and continue to try and forge a life. But ultimately, she did want her story to be told, she did want to tell her story and she did want the person who had raped her to be held accountable.

L: Mmm. 2.54.42 I'm just thinking back to that defence counsel - you know, the witness cross-examination, of K had she ever had the opportunity to do what she had planned to do. And I can imagine another sort of question would be, 'you've struggled with mental health problems, haven't you, Ms T?'

J: (Nods) 2.55.03 Absolutely. And I think K was very cognisant of the type of cross-examination that she was likely to encounter had this case ever made it to court. And she was also very aware that it may never have got to court in the first place. Historical cases this old. No real evidence, he said-she said, all of those things. She was prepared to take that risk. And I believe that whilst the criminal justice system may not have recognised it, the very fact that she grappled, had such difficulty with mental health, should have been part of the reason to believe the story that she was telling. She did not have these sorts of issues, these sorts of problems, prior to this event. She was an over-achiever - as her school magazine said. She was the one of her year, of her generation, that the school believed would go on to achieve great success, hold high office. Achieve great things for our country, for the world, who knows?

2.56.17 I think the fact that she did then become someone who had to fight such battles for so long is direct evidence of the fact that her life was derailed - that it was set off course. Um, and that might not have had much weight in a court of law. But I think many people to whom Kate spoke about this incident found it devastatingly persuasive. Tragically persuasive.

L: 2.56.56 Having had a lot of dealings with people who have had this sort of trauma, a lot of them suffer from PTSD and that sort of thing. Now there's a difference between seeking help because you have issues that distress you and having disordered thinking and being a

fantasist and a liar. Was there ever anything truthfully that you can think of that would suggest that K was disordered in her thinking, that she was a fantasist, that she was a liar, that she might have been making this up for attention, anything like that?

J: 2.57.43 No. I don't think Kate wanted attention. I think K wanted to lead her life.

J: 2.57.43 No. I don't think Kate wanted attention. I think K wanted to lead her life. She wanted to pursue her interests. She wanted to write poetry. She wanted to publish her writing. She wanted to get her Phd. She wanted all of these things for herself.

2.58.09 She was very clear in her thinking - that was a hallmark of K's intellect. Is that she brought a rigor to her thinking - to the way that she interrogating arguments and facts and ideas. And even at the times when she was most distressed across the period that we reconnected, there was never any disordered thinking in the way that she told her story, the way that she marshalled herself and the facts that she had at her disposal. The way that she thought about the strategy of taking these next steps. it was very clear and she was very clear in what she intended to do and the way that she intended to do it. There was no element of fantasy around it, there was no element of pursuing some kind of infamy. Bringing down a Cabinet minister, none of that. That is actually what caused her anxiety about it, that is what, I think gave her pause for thought. That's what caused her to really unpack everything in more detail, even more rigor because the consequences could be so big. So I never got the sense that there was any element of fantasy or, um, you know, disordered thinking in the way she approached it.

L: She told a lot of people in the past year, the past few months - why is it that you think she told so many people?

J: 2.59.59 I think that was actually part of her strategy, to be honest. I think that she reconnected with people from that period, because we had known her when it happened and we had known her at her peak. I think she wanted to bolster a network of support around her. And I think she wanted to have a network of people who knew and who believed her, so that when the time came, for her to formalise the complaint that she was making, um, she had people she could rely on to be there for her in what were likely to be very difficult and challenging times.

L: 3.00.52 What did she tell you happened?

J: 3.00.58 (pauses) So during, when K was in the national team, when K was in the national schools team in 1988, 1987, the Australian Debating Federation tried to make it a meaningful experience for those who had been lucky enough to be selected in the team. So it happened that in that year, January 1988, the Uni of Sydney was hosting the World Intervarsity Debating Championships. In the World championships, the debating style is parliamentary, so there are teams of two. So there were four people in the national schools debating team. (repeats) So the Australian Debating Fed negotiated with the Uni of Sydney to allow them to enter two teams of two from the schools team. So that was K, alongside, CP, Matt Deeble and Daniel Mulino. They were a little, close-knit group, I didn't see an

enormous amount of them throughout that championship - I was a hanger on there, enjoying the party side, rather than the intellectual side.

3.02.30 Kate told me that at the end of the championships, they had not been allowed to progress to the finals, even though they had been successful in the tournament, because they were there as a favour to the ADF. K told me towards the end of the championships, they had been out dancing, drinking, partying, until very late one night. They were walking back to the university campus, C offered to walk K back to her college. K didn't particularly want C to walk her back to the college - he had not been particularly supportive of her that week. He was fond of the cutting remark. She didn't really want to be alone with him. He had been cracking on to her a bit. She wasn't interested in his advances, she wasn't in that mood, late at night. But, he walked her back to her room. Came into the room, they started kissing, she was reluctant, but no harm in a kiss. At a certain point, she moved away, she resisted. She said she was not interested in pursuing anything further. C was not going to take no for an answer. I think he thought - the way she described it, there was a lot of alcohol involved, I think he thought he could persuade her as they went along.

3.04.21 There was increasing sexual activity. He was quite repulsive in the language that he used during the encounter. She resisted more strongly because of this. It was very clear, the way she described it, there was no ambiguity as to whether or not she was consenting.

3.04.40 And at a certain point, he raped her, and he raped her anally. When he finished, she was incredibly distressed, hysterical almost, in tears, on the bed, he was trying to calm her down. At a certain point, he suggested that the best course of action would be for her to take a bath. They were at the women's college at the Uni of Sydney. The bathrooms were shared. It's a dormitory situation. So he moved her out of the bedroom, down the hallway, into the bathroom. And he bathed her - he gave her a bath. Throughout that time, he was seeking to comfort her. And the way in which he did this was to stroke her and tell her that it was all going to be OK because this was just a bad dream.

3.06.04 They went back to the room, he said he would stay with her until she went to sleep. And that's the way she described this night to me.

L: Before this time, she describes how he said that they were going to get married, in the time immediately before this and then after this. Did she tell you...?

J: 3.06.40 She did tell me about that. So she had felt pretty uncomfortable with him in the schools team. She had - she was very close with Matt Deeble, she got on well with Daniel Mulino, but he was being the kind of, you know, brattish boy. He was making cutting remarks, his humour, he was making jokes at her expense. His humour seemed to be about her. There was this narrative that he would spin - that they were going to get married, he was - they were the perfect golden couple - all that kind of thing. She never took it seriously. She was never interested in C. And there was a dissonance between the sort of sarcastic, nasty humour. Or maybe it wasn't a dissonance. She described a sarcastic, sort of nasty humour, at her expense.

L: About her being flat chested for instance?

J: 3.07.47 Yeah, um, and about her physical appearance. As the only girl. He would suggest that he was going to bring in his shirts for her to iron. (L: Which I think she did do). Yeah, so there was this really unfortunate dynamic which he conjured and created and promoted which made her feel very uncomfortable and very insecure. I think this 'we're going to get married one day girlie' sort of fed into this. It wasn't necessarily 'what a great successful power couple we will be' but, 'look, you can iron my shirt, you're already doing it'.

3.08.35 L: She did though, after this took place, she was with him the next day, and she did maintain a relationship of sorts. Did she explain to you, because I can imagine that that would have been another thing that she would have been challenged on, 'why did you see this person again, if he anally raped you? If he choked you and forced fellatio, why would you see this person again?'

J: 3.09.07 Look, I think this is, kind of, not uncommon in lots of ways. So, she, the next day, they'd already arranged to meet another friend who was involved in debating, a NSW based friend, Danny Kennedy, she got up and she went about her plans and her day as normal. They did all go and meet up. I think she - I think she hoped that she could just move on. (stumble) 3.09.54 I think she would have been in shock. She would have hoped that she could deal with the situation. She wouldn't have wanted others to have known about the situation. She was humiliated by what had happened. She felt in some way responsible for what had happened.

L: Had she had any prior experience, sexually?

J: 3.10.14 No! She was a virgin. (small stumble) She had not had sexual experiences. She was not a sexually experienced person. She never viewed this - in later discussions, she never viewed this as the way she lost her virginity.

L: With the knowledge of her family situation that you had and have, was that the sort of place where she could have gone, or she could have felt she could have gone, at that time, as a 16yo virgin who has all this promise in the debating world and all that sort of thing. (get tongue-tied).

Do you think she felt she could have gone to her family?

J: 3.11.12 I don't think she would have wanted to go to her family. You know, the image that she had of herself and that others had of her, was this superstar, this high, over-achiever. That was what she wanted to project to the world. She would not have wanted to have been the victim of a sexual assault. Particularly not one where in her mind others might hold her partially responsible for.

3.11.50 It was a pretty loose world, that world of debating, and here were four school students, one of whom was going back to school the next year - she was between year 11 and year 12. Whereas the others had left school. So she was a young girl, who was in this very adult, very loose environment, with alcohol and nightclubs and late nights.

L: So there would have been a lot of disclosures that she had to make?

J: 3.12.20 Yeah, and, well, I think all of those things brought her to that room at that time, with C. You know, in terms of the way people blame the victim, and certainly, victims blame themselves, I mean, in the immediate aftermath, of that, when she would have been experiencing shock, I think her approach would have been - her very no-nonsense approach, which she brought to, you know, the work that she did and the preparation for her debates, all of that, would have been, we'll just get on with it, keep going with the next day, the next weeks, the next year, the rest of her life.

3.13.03 I truly believe that part of the reason that she wouldn't have gone to parents, was, yes they were strict and it was a very formal household, but her parents loved her very much and I think they would have done what they could for her of course, but I think it wasn't how she would have wanted to be defined. She would have gone from being the glory girl that the school promoted, that the state promoted, that had the world at her feet, to being, you know, the victim of an assault that she should've known better than to allow to occur.

L: 3.13.54 You were also a young woman with enormous promise and intellect - you were on the state debating team, you were someone who people would have spoken about in that sort of way. And the burden that comes with that, of being a high achiever, that people sort of look up to.... (we joke a little)

3.14.32 Imagine this had've happened to you at that time, would you have wanted to tell people about it?

J; 3.14.37 I don't think I would have either, to be perfectly honest. You know, we all.. I don't think I would have.

3.15.05 If this had happened to me, I'm not sure that I would have been rushing to tell people, either. There's a great deal of shame that can come from unfortunate, ill-advised, let alone illegal sexual acts. As a young woman, you blame yourself for things that happen. I mean, we've all had the situation where a sexualised situation has gone further than we really would have liked or expected. It's not always, in fact, it's rarely a situation that would be defined as criminal. But it does, occasionally get out of control. And as 15-16 yo girls, you don't have much control in those situations, whatever you think going in. If you've been drinking heavily and you've been gregarious and flirtatious and, you know, extroverted, if something goes sour, late in the night, when booze has been consumed and everybody's perhaps not a hundred per cent clear, you're not likely to rush and tell anyone. I think you're going to accept it as an inevitable, if unfortunate, outcome of a situation which you helped create. And so the best thing that you can do is put it behind you and try and remember next time to be more careful.

J: 3.16. 46 You'll try and moderate your behaviour, rather than think that the perpetrator's behaviour is the thing that should be moderated, or is illegal and should be prosecuted. So I'm not surprised that she continued to interact with Christian in those few days, last few days of the championships and beyond. Because it would have been unusual if she didn't.

And then people would be asking 'why, what's wrong?' and then she would have had to confront the situation. And all she wanted to do was put it behind her.

L: And this was 1988...

J: 3.17.26 1988, she was 16, she was very inexperienced sexually. I can easily see how she would have blamed herself.

L: And also the social mores of the time (J: Indeed). A long time before MeToo.

J: 3.17.39 Oh absolutely. A long time before men were being held to account for their behaviours, as opposed to women being asked to explain theirs.

L: 3.18.00 I'm just going to return to a second to the actual assault, because I just want to make this clear. Because K's not here now to be able to tell her story. So to the best of people's ability, it would be helpful if they could. Did she tell you in the kind of blow-by-blow account that you would get, you know, in a police statement and do you remember it in that way? It's... yeah...

J: 3.18.30 Look, I don't remember it in the level of detail that would be helpful to the police. She told me this in detail, but it was the first time we discussed this at all and I was genuinely shocked and horrified by the fact of what she was telling me, let alone the detail of what she was telling me. So I don't think I would - I wouldn't be someone who could go through in forensic detail what happened on that night. But there are few key details, really appalling details, of what she told me happened that night that have stuck with me. Which include the way he behaved, the things he was saying and the type of acts themselves.

3.19.40 So when they got back to their dormitory room, K's dormitory room in the women's college and there was the initial pushing, before she really withdrew from that, K had always worn pearl necklaces and he decided to, well... .

3.20.04 K often wore pearl necklaces and so C elected to tell her that he would give her a pearl necklace by ejaculating on her. She was very clear about that. And that isn't something that you forget in a tale.

3.20.23 The fact that he, in what I think is a fairly sinister way, sought to remove some of the evidence by taking her down the hallway in a dormitory to a shared bathroom and bathing her, I find really disturbing. That he sought to characterise what happened as a bad dream while she was clearly in a hysterical state as a way to ... I don't know what? Transform in her mind the fact that this was not a memory in her mind but a nightmare? Just seems to me to be very sinister behaviour.

3.21.08 And then the fact that the way he actually raped her was anally, just is such a violent thing to do to a young girl, but also one might think was that, too, sort of thinking cannily about the possibility of pregnancy or anything of that nature - that his behaviour was coldly strategic in some ways. Even amongst the chaotic, alcohol-fuelled nature of it all. So these things were really things that stayed with me. Even as the minute by minute account which

she gave didn't. I also thought that were it to become in any way relevant, there would be a time for us to talk it through again.

L: 3.22.11 This is something, it's a really horrible aspect of what she describes, but I feel that it might be something which I should raise with you. With the anal rape as she describes it or as she alleges, she said that the first time was enormously painful for obvious reasons, but she says that the second time, because she was bleeding so heavily, was not as painful. Did she tell you anything about that?

J: 3.22.56 She did. She did. So she told me that the second time, or as things continued, I don't know if it was as cut and dried as first or second in my memory of it, that her body betrayed her and that she actually orgasmed as a result of this action. And she really was devastated by that. That she couldn't believe that she would have that physical response at the same time that she was going through a kind of psychological trauma. And she was curious about that at the same time as being appalled by herself and I think experiencing a lot of self-hatred by what she saw as being a betrayal.

L: 3.24.02 Do you think that that had something to do with the confusion around this event and her failure to disclose.

J: 3.24.15 Ah, that fact could have played into this sense of confusion, of hysteria, of really, extreme discombobulation around that night. It really required her to unpack all of that, I think. And what it meant and what it didn't mean. Where her culpability was, if she was 'enjoying this' physically, which of course is a very simplistic way of describing it, but it was the way that she having to interrogate it. So I think that the evening itself was so horrifying and surreal in so many different ways, that being one very key aspect of it all, that I think it took a lot from her to even try and get clarity about the night and its implications. I think it did distress her greatly that this happened. She was incredulous that it happened. And so, really, ashamed, I think, to talk about it.

L: 3.25.44 It strikes me, having read a lot of these transcripts, that on the one hand you could say, well, on the one hand, you could say that this muddies the water. But on the other hand, this is what's often known as making an admission against yourself, which potentially adds to the truthfulness of it, because...

J: 3.26.04 ... Why would you say that? Yeah. I mean, yeah, I it seemed to me that there was - the level of detail in the story was what made it compelling. And particularly when she was telling things about the night which she felt might incriminate herself in some way or boost her own culpability in the passage of events that happened. And I think both the way that she didn't prevent him from coming into the room in the first place, through the way that she seemed to physically respond, I think all of these things merge together into a really distressing sort of melange of thoughts and experiences for her.

L: 3.27.09 In April this year, you mentioned to me earlier that there was a decision in the High Court that really distressed her. And I will get you to story tell that in a statement way.

J: Well we didn't actually talk much about that - that was not something that she and I had discussed.

L: Oh, I'm sorry - I'm getting my wires crossed. It must have been one of her other friends that mentioned that...

J: Certainly her friends have subsequently. (told you that?) but wasn't something we discussed in detail... Mainly because it was after lockdown and we weren't as in close contact over the last couple of months of her life.

L: 3.28.07 How did you find out that K had died?

J: 3.28.13 I got a call from a friend in Adelaide. And it was through a series of very Adelaide connections that we discovered that this had happened. A friend of a friend was K's neighbour and as people were working from home, had witnessed the police and the ambulance turn up at her house. On the day that she died. And so the neighbour found out from them and contacted our mutual friend. And so that's how it spread through our Adelaide network.

L: 3.28.55 What did K do?

J: So some time after arriving back from Melbourne, where she had voluntarily admitted herself to a clinic there, first time, actually, in my reacquaintance with her, that she had made a decision herself and voluntarily admitted herself, but some time after coming back from Melbourne, she took an overdose and killed herself.

L: 3.29.29 Is there any sense why?

J: 3.29.31 The last few days of her life are a bit of a blank actually for all of her friends, including people with whom she was in very close contact. Right up to and including in some circumstances the time that she was in the clinic. So we don't know exactly what caused her to do this now.

3.29/56 But, over the last few years, certainly the last 12 months since we have been in close contact, she has been, you know, in and out of institutions. She was really battling to stay in control of the pain and the distress that she was experiencing. And whilst sometimes we felt that she was winning that battle, clearly, she wasn't, and on this occasion, on this day, she decided it was too hard. She was too exhausted, it was too painful. Perhaps that there was nothing really that was going to change in this ongoing fight, so she gave up.

L: That was two days after the Dyson Heydon allegations?

J: It was. It was. 3.31.02 I mean, I think, if you go back to last year, there was a sense of hope and optimism that people who had behaved not just badly, but illegally, could be brought to account. And I think that there is, perhaps a sense that over the course of this year, and particularly in the last three months, that that had changed. There were similarities in some

ways between her case and cases that had come before the High Court, historical cases, of sexual assault, where it was only the victim's word, and the court decided that the victim's word alone would not be sufficient. Um, you know, that's what she had.

3.32.02 So, I think that would have been demoralising, debilitating, I think the idea that she could pursue a media campaign was perhaps more remote at that time. I think the timing of this investigation is just tragic. I think had she known that there was other people who had stories to tell, that that would have been absolutely transformational for her. That there would have been an opportunity to tell her story alongside other women would have just meant the world to her and that the timing was just, you know, so tragically, short on it, I think is just a real heartbreak.

L: 3.33.46 You haven't read K's statement? (No) At the end of her statement, she says, 'in order to complete this account, I have drawn on all my resources, emotional, psychological, mental, spiritual, physical and financial. I have spent literally all of my savings and maxed out my credit card in order to do this work. But I have no regrets. All I really want, in the end, is for this to have been reported to the NSW Police Force. And to know that a copy of this document, and a transcript of any interview they might do with me, is in their archives. My original training was as an historian. This is my story, plain and simple. It's not pretty, but it's mine. And I stand by it, every single word and image in this document is true. If this story does become public knowledge, I hope that it will encourage other women to come forward. Not for me, but for themselves. I am sure that CP has violated other girls and women. I also hope that other people who have endured similar traumas, should these facts become public knowledge will feel less alone. Our bodies are precious. They are a gift from god, however we understand this. They should not be abused by anyone, ever, under any circumstances'.

How does it make you feel to hear those words, knowing that she never got to fight that battle?

J: 3.35.26 Well, it... it's heartbreaking. It really is. She was very strong. And very clear, as you can hear in her own words. She wanted to tell her story. She fervently believed that there would be others who would come forward eventually. That C as an individual was likely to have behaved reprehensibly, if not illegally, towards other women. But she also wanted women to feel that they could come forward. She - she was under no illusions about how difficult it would be. But she had already had to climb mountains with this burden. So, I'm glad that her story can go onto the public record.

3.36.35 When we were talking about it with her and the possible cost to her, it was a price that she was prepared to pay. But now, she's paid the highest cost. The worst case scenario has happened for her. So I think there is a responsibility for those of us who know her story, to tell it. And for people to hear it and for there to be consequences.

L: 3.37.09 What should those consequences be, for the Attorney-General?

J: 3.37.15 He should not be our Attorney-General. He should not be in a position where he's making decisions about other people's lives. In a perfect world, these claims would now be

tested in a court of law, and he would have the right to respond, as he should, to these claims and these allegations. But given that K is no longer here, that's very difficult. So I think that he needs to look into his own soul - I have no great confidence that he will...

3.37.51 But really all political parties need to think about the type of people that they have in positions of power and authority. And Australians need to think about the type of people that they have representing them. And CP is not worthy.

L: 3.38.08 She told you something about what he wanted by the time he was 50?

J: CP has always wanted to be Prime Minister. And one of K's clear objectives in all of this was to ensure that man never became our PM.

New clip just for a couple of last clarifying questions.

L: You met Kate - where was that?

J: 3.38.48 So the first time we met, after she got back in touch with me was on the 16th of August last year and we met at a rather fine restaurant in Adelaide on the parade in Norwood called Stone's Throw. She was staying in Stepney at the time.

L: How did she bring this up?

J: 3.39.10 Well she'd already brought this up, we'd had quite a long conversation on the phone where she'd outlined the key details of it. But, really, we did a bit of a catch up. It had been a long time since we had seen each other. So there was a lot to catch up other than just the autobiographical details of our lives. But she did dive in pretty quickly and this was the issue that was consuming her completely and indeed had been what had engendered this contact. So we started talking about it quite early.

L: And how was she when she was talking about it?

J: 3.40.00 She was always very clear about it. There would be points throughout the telling of the story and the revisiting of aspects of that night and that period, but also the periods directly around it, that could be distressing and about which she could get a little agitated. But never to the extent that it impacted on the flow of the narrative that she was telling. She... I think she had spent a lot of time reliving this period. I think she spent a lot of time reliving this period. I think she found it difficult to leave this period. She archived a lot of things, she had a lot of memorabilia from these various competitions in which she participated. She was a big letter writer, so she had correspondence and all those sorts of things. And I think she had spent a lot of time immersed back in that world. Quite a forensic level of detail - much greater detail than I could recall of any of it.

3.41.26 So it was quite an odd experience for me to be drawn back into a period of some thirty years ago and relive it. But for her, it was, I think, a jag she was on and fought to get off at various points. But had certainly spent a lot of time immersing over those last few months.

L: One of the people on the debating team at that time was now Labor MP Daniel Mulino. She went to Canberra and sat in the chamber and watched his inaugural speech. I'll just get you to tell me what you know of that - C came into the chamber and so on.

J: 3.42.13 She did. I think part of what she was doing in that period of her life was making contact with a lot of people who had been part of that world and Daniel had just been elected as a member of parliament. She was due to go to Canberra to do some research in the national library anyway. But she did organise her trip around the possibility of being there whilst he delivered his maiden speech. So she was in the chamber when he was giving the speech.

(Lou brief interruption just to get her to retell it as a complete sentence).

J: 3.43.22 K was in Canberra at the time that Daniel Mulino was to deliver his maiden speech, so she went and sat in the visitors section of parliament house so she could see him deliver it. And she ended up sitting next to I think his wife certainly someone in his acquaintance, and so was invited back to the celebratory drinks afterwards, where there were quite a few people from the debating world. So she was reconnecting again with a number of people, including of course Daniel who had been in the national team with her in 1988.

(Turns out Jo does not know about the hand shaking).