

Copy of First Meeting 1**0:00:00.0 AUDIO BEGINS****0:00:01.6 INTERVIEW BEGINS**

0:00:01.6

Lisa:

Because I know that there, there's sort of deciding that you want to do something with this, is still pretty new for you.

0:00:09.2

Brittany:

Yeah, no. It sort of ramped up post Four Corners. I think you know, seeing the commentary again reiterated and then, you know, side stepping any sort of accountability on the basis that it wasn't his government, I just found it infuriating because I was like your entire team fundamentally were involved in my entire case so I just, it got to the point where I just, every story was like a re-traumatising experience and so that was kind of the last personal straw.

0:00:36.2

Brittany:

I was like oh –

0:00:37.6

David:

And then you reiterated with the Grace Thame stuff the other day.

0:00:40.0

Brittany:

Oh yeah, that was a whole other thing, but yeah.

0:00:42.1

Lisa:

Wasn't she powerful?

0:00:43.8

Brittany:

Beautiful. That night for me was a nightmare. It was –

0:00:47.2

Lisa:

It was traumatising.

0:00:48.1

Brittany:

It was Scott Morrison on stage handing her an award.

0:00:50.9

Brittany:

For the exact same thing. Well not the exact, obviously her experience is different, but you know, broadly similar.

0:00:57.7

David:

He gets to be a champion of those thinking about the rape.

0:01:00.8

Lisa:

That, I hated that. Because, you know, he's no champion, of women.

0:01:07.6

Angus:

I'd like to record this if you're okay with that.

0:01:09.6

Brittany:

Absolutely, go for it.

0:01:10.1

Angus:

It's only going to be on my phone, it's not going to be on a Ten server. It's not going to be anywhere else other than, on, within mine but it's basically to make sure that I'm not scribbling, typing the whole time and I've also got backups for the lawyers to be able to say, yes, yes, no.

0:01:26.3

Angus:

This is what we know, this is what we don't know.

0:01:27.8

Brittany:

Of course.

0:01:28.4

Lisa:

Because if we're going to proceed, we have to know that we've got every legal loophole covered.

0:01:35.8

David:

And a quick question on that. Brit's like, if they come for Brit -

0:01:42.0

Brittany:

I don't have that many assets personally to come after -

0:01:43.7

David:

Like it's a bad look to go after a victim but -

0:01:47.3

Lisa:

Yeah I don't -

0:01:48.0

David:

Do we need to get her a lawyer or?

0:01:52.1

Lisa:

Why don't we ask Miles -

0:01:53.5

Angus:

We'll, that's totally something that we find out, that we can find out on behalf of you. But yeah, as you say, it's, it's the, usually the broadcaster and it's a very bad look. So who's got assets worthwhile going after? It's the broadcaster who didn't do their due diligence and haven't got their facts right, so and it's also a very bad look to go after someone who's clearly, yeah, suffering the impacts, so.

0:02:27.4

Lisa:

Particularly when you're also seen handing out Australian of the Year Awards to sexual assault victims.

0:02:33.7

David:

And as awful as that is for a story, the timing is like, just him on stage being up there, that really upset you and like, that was -

0:02:42.5

Brittany:

Yeah, it did.

0:02:45.0

Lisa:

And I have no doubt there are other women in Canberra who -

0:02:49.3

Brittany:

I don't doubt it. You know, you hear sort of rumours circulating broadly about these sort of things but you just, no-one talks about it.

0:02:58.1

Lisa:

Well I would suggest that you're not an island and obviously that Four Corners Canberra Bubble story proved it.

0:03:06.5

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah.

0:03:10.9

Angus:

So how did you two first meet?

0:03:14.0

Brittany:

He used to harass me, he used to work for the –

0:03:15.9

David:

I used to work, I used to produce Pete, produce Petey, I used to produce Peter Stefanovic on Sky.

0:03:21.2

Lisa:

You're joking, on Sky.

0:03:21.8

Angus:

On Sky.

0:03:23.9

David:

Yeah it's like, I, the weird, the weird like producing Pete thing that's, and so we met and she came in with Cash once and I was single and I thought oh she's great and then I was like, oh I'll never see her again and then she left and then, I used to call her, because I was producing Pete and I was trying to get guests for the morning.

0:03:40.3

David:

And I used to call her, just to kind of have a chat, I knew Cash was never going to come on it at six in the morning, from Perth -

0:03:44.8

Brittany:

Which in WA was like three am. It was never going to happen. It would be like, oh God, David Sharaz.

0:03:50.1

David:

I would call her and like, hey could Cash come on and she was like oh probably, I'll see, anyway, how's things? And I was like. And then COVID happened and I like, was, as most people during COVID, I got drunk and I was talking to a friend on Zoom and I said oh there's this girl, she's way out of my league.

0:04:04.0

David:

I'll show you what she looks like and I screen captured your Instagram and sent it to my friend but Brit was on my mind so I sent Brit a photo of Brit and then I kind of like was oh well, hahaha, so when I asked her out, I was like full disclosure –

0:04:17.9

Lisa:

Gee that made things pretty clear.

0:04:20.0

Brittany:

No, I thought he was negging me because I took a photo right in front of Budget Tree –

0:04:21.2

David:

It was a beautiful photo.

0:04:22.4

Brittany:

Yeah and I thought it was quite funny and I was like oh in front of Budget Tree and I thought he was laughing at me for being such, like a basic staffer, taking a photo outside of Budget Tree.

0:04:30.1

David:

And then I'd just confess, I was like full disclosure I think you're really cute, have a wonderful life, I'll see you later. Yeah.

0:04:36.3

Brittany:

It worked. It was very cute.

0:04:38.2

David:

Here I am, I loved you when I saw you for the first time.

0:04:39.8

Brittany:

Okay haha.

0:04:40.4

Angus:

That's a brilliant, that's a brilliant mistake.

0:04:42.4

Lisa, David and Brittany:

Yes. Hahaha.

0:04:43.4

David:

I never would have asked her out so it worked out well.

0:04:46.1

Lisa:

You should tell your mates to try that.

0:04:47.4

David:

I know, because the next day when I was at a party with friends they were like, you're never hearing from her again.

0:04:53.0

Lisa:

That's great. And so how long ago was that?

0:04:55.9

David:

That was, like, May. First date was like May 31st during Covid.

0:05:04.3

Angus:

That explains Budget Tree.

0:05:05.8

David and Brittany:

Yeah, yeah hahaha.

0:05:09.7

Lisa:

So you've been together for seven months.

0:05:11.3

David:

Yeah we live together and –

0:05:13.8

Brittany:

Yeah it happened quickly. Yeah. It's all good.

0:05:17.0

Lisa:

Just between you and me, all the best ones do.

0:05:20.5

David:

When you've been in a bad one, you know what a good one is.

0:05:21.7

Lisa:

Yes and I have been in a bad one, I've had my heart broken, because I've just been writing about this. But I've actually morphed three guys into one, so not one of them yeah, yeah, it was the cleverest thing to do. So one in particular will be looking for himself in the book and I'm not giving him the satisfaction.

0:05:41.3

Lisa:

So in coming to us –

0:05:45.1

Brittany:

Yeah of course.

0:05:44.9

Lisa:

Tell us what you want to get out of this. What you want to see happen.

0:05:51.3

Brittany:

I don't know. I think, it's, it's painfully sort of altruistic in the sense that you know, it's very much against any of my personal interests and it's been hard to sort of come to this point where I've gone oh, this is, this is the tipping point where it goes beyond what I need for my career to the point of, oh this is a problem. Yeah.

0:06:13.7

Brittany:

And so I've heard so many stories and then, I'm so sorry -

0:06:18.7

Angus:

No, not at all.

0:06:19.0

Brittany:

I find it difficult to talk about.

0:06:21.7

Lisa:

Let me grab you some tissues, because I'll probably start as well so I'll need them as well.

0:06:26.8

Brittany:

Thank you.

0:06:30.5

Brittany:

Yeah, no and so it got to a point, after the incident I could pretty much (tissues put down), thank you. Yeah, I could pretty much sort of, I thought if I moved offices, if I got out of the like, Minister Reynolds' office that I could broadly be okay and make this work. I thought it could be sustainable.

0:06:48.2

Brittany:

And then every story that came out, it was, it was, like I said it was a re-traumatising event. So there was the, there was the Ken White story that I remember during the election that was quite difficult, that was just about bullying and then there was like the Dhanya Mani and the, I forget the other lady's name but there was these other two Liberal women that came out.

0:07:06.0

Brittany:

And both the NSW Liberals and the other one. And so every story that came out was this reinforcing of a narrative that we were all sort of covering and being inside of the machine of how they process these sort of stories, like I was, I already knew the talking points.

0:07:22.1

Brittany:

I already know the talking points of when exactly my story comes out you know? If she'd felt so strongly she should've gone to the appropriate authorities and we encourage her to do so and blah blah blah.

0:07:31.7

Brittany:

And so it was just this idea that you were part of the reinforcing machine and it got to a point where I was just, Four Corners, I just hit a wall where it was dismissed and it hurt and Rochelle was really close, she was just before me, just before I came into the Cash office.

0:07:46.9

Brittany:

So, I have people that I work with now, who knew her, who worked with her, who were having comments about her story personally, having that to me, not knowing my incident but they were talking broadly about, you know, Rochelle wasn't a good staffer, she wasn't very good at her job, she'd had an affair.

0:08:02.7

Brittany:

Like this was, and it was just the way they were speaking about it. I thought it was just fundamentally wrong. And I couldn't stay there. Like it was just, yeah. And I thought about leaving quietly and just going on my merry way and getting a plum media advisor gig at, I don't know, there was a good one at Facebook going, I was quite keen on.

0:08:19.8

Brittany:

But, but I just, Bruce, sorry, my perpetrator is great, he's fine. The Liberal Party would be fine and I just felt like I was living this myself and it was just mine.

0:08:35.9

Lisa:

So you're saying that everybody else in this story, is doing just fine?

0:08:40.0

Brittany:

Absolutely.

0:08:40.9

Lisa:

In their lives. They've moved on.

0:08:42.2

Brittany:

Absolutely.

0:08:42.6

Lisa:

They, they're not looking over their shoulder at who –

0:08:44.2

Brittany:

Absolutely. I mean every once in a while when there are sort of like these moments where these sort of issue come to the forefront, there'll be a check in process, whether it's Cash, whether it's someone.

0:08:54.8

Lisa:

Yeah, can you tell us about the check in process. Because there was one the day of the Four Corners story.

0:09:00.3

Brittany:

Yeah, yes. So I had a call from this guy called Yaron Finkelstein. Yeah.

0:09:04.9

Angus:

Ron, yeah.

0:09:06.0

Brittany:

Yeah and so I –

0:09:06.9

David:

The enforcer.

0:09:08.8

Brittany:

So we've only professionally, inside of my work capacity, probably interacted two or three times. Like he does not need to know my name. I am quite low on the pecking order compared to Yaron, yeah, and so, yeah he called me out of the blue on the Four Corners week.

0:09:22.8

Brittany:

Because I was out sick and, I knew what the conversation was about. He knew what the conversation was about and it was broadly just a check in and mechanism of like, I don't know, I don't, it was, it was more just are you okay? Checking in with me as a person and then, that was it. I think it was just a control thing of just –

0:09:46.1

David:

You're off sick right? Not –

0:09:48.8

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:09:49.0

David

You're not at Four Corners right? It was like a weird –

0:09:51.0

Brittany:

Yeah and it was just this, this systematic check in every time a story came up, like Cash would be extra lovely to me and she personally has been very nice to me but there is a level of self-interest that, of this sort of minding process of oh, every time there's an issue they're like okay, are you okay, are we good, are we good, are you good? Okay you coming back to work tomorrow?

0:10:10.1

David:

But they never talk to you, they're just kind of like –

0:10:12.2

Brittany:

No.

0:10:12.9

David:

Are we cool? And they'll shut down conversations about that sort of stuff.

0:10:15.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:10:16.2

Lisa:

What, what did, give me an example of shutting down the conversation.

0:10:20.8

Brittany:

So, this is kind of going back to the incident, but one of the ladies who was sort of my Chief of Staff at the time, she works in PMO now, she's Director of Operations.

0:10:32.3

Lisa:

This is Fiona –

0:10:33.3

Brittany:

Fiona Brown. And she, she let it slip that she had seen the footage of me going into Parliament House. That I was quite inebriated, that you could visibly see that I was really intoxicated and that I was in a state where I needed to be helped to walk. Like I wasn't physically capable.

0:10:48.3

Angus:

So how did she let that –

0:10:50.2

Brittany:

We were speaking about it. After the fact. She was talking about, sort of whether or not I wanted to go into the election or just go home. So these were sort of my two options that were presented to me. But she mentioned that she had seen it and then I just, in my mind, because I just, as a sort of

victim, if you don't understand what had happened to you, you kind of latch onto the idea of any sort of evidence to piece together what's happened.

0:11:12.9

Brittany:

And I just, I became obsessed with the idea that I needed to see the tape. I needed to see this footage. Everyone else had seen it, everyone else knew about it –

0:11:20.1

Angus:

That's what I was going to ask. I'm like, so many other people know –

[0:11:20.8 talking over each other]

0:11:24.1

Angus:

Know these details of your story –

0:11:26.7

Brittany:

And yeah I felt like the last to know all this information. I was trying to piece it together in my head, like I just, I felt like if I could see it, I could contextualise it and I could move on with it, or at least just process it in a real way.

0:11:37.0

Lisa:

And at least know what other people had seen of you.

0:11:39.4

Brittany:

Exactly.

0:11:40.9

Angus:

Yeah.

0:11:41.0

Brittany:

Exactly. And it was this big part that everyone else kind of had and I didn't have it and so I really wanted to know and it was just continually dismissed and dismissed to the point where like it just, I think I asked about four times, four or five times.

0:11:54.3

Lisa:

Who did you ask?

0:11:55.2

Brittany:

Fiona. Yeah. She was sort of like my case manager broadly at the time, so.

0:11:59.9

Angus:

So she was your superior?

0:12:01.6

Brittany:

Yeah, so it's all quite complicated but at the time, so I used to work for Steven Ciobo, he decided to resign ahead of the election at a similar time Christopher Pine decided to resign. And so that was all the continuity in our defence portfolio gone.

0:12:19.8

Brittany:

So at that point, Scott Morrison was like, he didn't like Steve Ciobo, so he was like f**k off Steve, let's get Linda Reynolds in and that's the line of continuity in defence.

0:12:29.7

Lisa:

Can I, can I just backtrack a little more. Because Linda Reynolds was the one, one of the women who stood up in Parliament and said that the Liberal Party has a women problem. And so she got that portfolio according to Julia Banks, as part of the women problem being solved. And she was promised a portfolio –

0:12:53.7

Brittany:

Absolutely.

0:12:54.6

Lisa:

Is what Julie Banks told me.

0:12:55.9

Brittany:

Absolutely.

0:12:56.6

Lisa:

In order to be quiet.

0:12:58.7

Brittany:

Absolutely. The general sort of notion was that there was, there was like a shallow talent pool and who could we foster up. And it solved like a temporary short-term issue in the Party of who could we elevate to sort of mitigate this public image issue.

0:13:15.0

Brittany:

Linda had served and had been in Russell, which is like the defence sort of department hub and so that was like a natural progression but she didn't have the team infrastructure, like all these ministers sort of need, so all of a sudden they were bringing in people from defence, they brought in people from PMO, which is the Prime Minister's Office to sort of flash out this temporary team that needed to exist before the election.

0:13:37.3

Brittany:

And that's why Fiona Brown from the Prime Minister's Office was my acting Chief of Staff.

0:13:43.6

Lisa:

And it was a six-week secondment?

0:13:45.3

Brittany:

Yeah. So it was from the time of the announcement, which was probably early March til just going into the election period, which was probably the start of April, yeah. So it was sort of, it was quite a short period and so I was one of the lucky few who actually managed to go from the old ministerial office and get picked up again in Linda Reynolds' office.

0:14:08.6

Brittany:

So she'd only known me like two weeks before this had all happened. And I had just gone through an interview process, half of my colleagues didn't get a job, they were all fired and so it was this very cutthroat Hunger Games-esque environment where it's like, oh God, okay, everyone I used to work with for the past six months are now gone.

0:14:25.5

Brittany:

I've just made up, like made it into the team and so you're really like, like latched on to sort of, these people. Like you need them to like you. Yeah.

0:14:35.6

Lisa:

It's a cutthroat business.

0:14:36.6

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah absolutely. And they, I wasn't blind to that but like I just, I felt lucky to be there and Bruce, sorry, I don't know if, what you want me to call him.

0:14:46.2

Angus:

What, what do you want to call him?

0:14:47.2

Lisa:

Yeah.

0:14:47.5

Brittany:

I'll just call him Bruce. And Bruce was one of her long-term existing staffers, who she'd known for a really long time and he was a lot more, technically on the pecking order, like he was a lot more senior than I was.

0:14:59.1

Lisa:
And what was his role?

0:15:00.5

Brittany:
He was an advisor. He advised on, she was Assistant Minister for Home Affairs before all this started and that was his primary responsibility, giving her advice on –

0:15:12.1

Angus:
Right.

0:15:13.2

Brittany:
Yeah, and that was sort of her core responsibility before being elevated into Cabinet.

0:15:17.4

Angus:
Yeah, because essentially outside of Canberra no-one really knew who the Assistant Minister for Home Affairs was –

0:15:21.3

Brittany:
No no.

0:15:21.9

Angus:
So, kind of like who? Who is the Senior Defence Minister?

0:15:24.9

Brittany:
Yeah yeah exactly. No-one knew, no-one.

0:15:25.3

Angus:
Right, but he knew who she was because he was the Senior Advisor to her.

0:15:30.1

Brittany:
And so he worked with George Brandis before that. He'd worked for like, Bridget McKenzie. Like, he'd been around the traps a lot longer than I had and I was quite a new recruit.

0:15:37.8

Lisa:
And was he known as a valuable employee?

0:15:40.9

Brittany:
Yeah, yeah, absolutely. I mean people still to this day think of him as like one of the rising stars. They, they kind of like tap people really young and you can tell the ones who are going to, in the Young Liberals, who are going to become –

0:15:52.3

Lisa:
Politicians?

0:15:52.9

Brittany:
Yeah, exactly. It's kind of like that same club. Like, Cash, Porter, there's this group of them all in WA, they were all in the same Young Libs together and they all came up together. And it's the sort of systematic sort of culture of you go through Young Libs, you become staffers, you do a law degree and you go on.

0:16:12.7

Brittany:
And it's this like little process and I wasn't sort of a part of that. I was just sort of brought in by chance pretty much and so Bruce was a part of the machine. Everyone had known him for years.

0:16:23.8

Lisa:
So you were aware of his reputation. He was senior to you and he was somebody to be respected.

0:16:29.9

Brittany:
Yeah yeah, absolutely. But when I heard of the reshuffle or the, that Ciobo was going out, the first thing I did was contact his team and organise drinks. I was like I need to know these people; I need to be a part of their world. How do I say hello and introduce myself.

0:16:45.0

David:
How do I keep my job?

0:16:45.6

Brittany:
Yeah and that's just kind of a part of it. So I met their team existing and that was kind of how I got into the Reynolds office.

0:16:51.9

Lisa:
Okay.

0:16:52.4

Brittany:
I was proactive about that and yeah.

0:16:55.4

Lisa:
So –

0:16:56.7

Angus:

Sorry I was just going to ask, so the, the, because one of things they'll want to be able to get the details of is, you know, in those first sort of few weeks, after the incident, who's in charge of what. So is Fiona basically in charge of the office with Bruce underneath and, and then did you and Bruce both report to Fiona or did you report to Bruce?

0:17:22.0

Brittany:

So I came on in both a media assistant/admin role. And it was created for me so I could get experience. I wanted to become an assistant advisor which is what I am now, and this for me was a stopgap. So he was above me, in the, in the office hierarchy, the like lists, I was right at the bottom and he was right at the top.

0:17:42.0

Angus:

Okay.

0:17:42.6

Lisa:

So if he told you to do something, you do it.

0:17:44.9

Brittany:

I had to do it. Yeah, yeah, definitely.

0:17:46.6

David:

He made you move a fridge once.

0:17:47.8

Brittany:

Yeah there was sort of reported incident –

0:17:49.4

Angus:

Sounds reasonable.

0:17:50.6

Brittany:

No no, it was like these reported incidents before the time, where Fiona was concerned about Bruce bullying me, there were these incident's where like he was asking me to do things that seemed weird and there were all these internal office conflicts that were happening on the basis that these two teams were merging.

0:18:04.6

Brittany:

And because I was running all the administration staff and like pulling people together, there was already like these weird things that were happening in terms of you know, intimidation of like, oh you needed to get this done and I was like going above and beyond at the request of Bruce because I felt like I had to.

0:18:20.4

Lisa:
Did she use the term bullying?

0:18:22.6
Brittany:
Fiona did yeah, definitely. Yeah she always –

0:18:23.9
Lisa:
To your face?

0:18:24.8
Brittany:
Yep.

0:18:25.0
Lisa:
Or was there, was there a paper trail or her using that term?

0:18:28.9
Brittany:
Potentially in a staff WhatsApp there may have been something that other people could speak to but yeah no, once again, the government's like very minded of all this sort of stuff so everything we do is via WhatsApp, team messages are done via WhatsApp.

0:18:47.0
Brittany:
We don't do anything by email. None of my meetings with Fiona were ever done in a Calendar, it's all done via WhatsApp, there's always that level of -

0:18:54.7
Angus:
Meetings not even in the calendar?

0:18:57.0
Brittany:
Yeah yeah definitely, definitely not.

0:18:58.8
David:
PMO comes into the office, you don't go to PMO.

0:19:01.3
Brittany:
No no, and that's just standard practice on the basis of, you know, we've been FOI for everything and that's a part of our daily practices, that we don't put things in emails. We, if, if anything we consider even broadly sensitive, policy wise or administrative or anything, you put it in a WhatsApp. So I've got about twenty WhatsApp groups that are just currently active in my current office now.

0:19:22.6
Brittany:

And they, yeah.

0:19:24.7

David:

And weren't you telling that you, if it's really sensitive you don't even put it on WhatsApp, you voice record it?

0:19:29.1

Brittany:

Yeah yeah, so we do voice record WhatsApp because then you don't have it in writing.

0:19:33.1

Lisa:

Right.

0:19:34.4

Brittany:

Yeah. And so there's this level of like, and so it's this –

0:19:37.3

Angus:

Wow.

0:19:37.4

David:

Good people.

0:19:39.0

Brittany:

No but it's –

0:19:42.0

Lisa:

So the presumption is always you're about to be found guilty about something so don't have any kind of trace of it?

0:19:49.4

Brittany:

It's just so ingrained into sort of what we do that it's so normalised now, like we don't even, we don't even think about it. That's just kind of, and sometimes if you're even more you use the other one –

0:19:59.1

Angus and David:

Signal.

0:20:00.1

Brittany:

Signal. Yeah yeah. And then you put the short-term ones that distract –

0:20:03.9

David:

Like Phillip. Yeah. Yes, I had to use because I have a contact at Defence and I needed to find this woman who was in this office, long story but he called me on Signal because he was like, well then I'm going to send you a text saying I don't know what you're talking about.

0:20:20.0

Lisa:

(scoffs)

0:20:21.1

Angus:

Wow.

0:20:22.6

Brittany:

It's so weird and so –

0:20:24.3

David:

It feels like a spy novel.

0:20:26.0

Lisa:

Yeah, so –

0:20:27.4

Angus:

A terrible spy novel.

0:20:28.0

David:

And it's just –

0:20:28.8

Brittany:

It's just clunky and dumb but it's what it is.

0:20:32.0

Lisa:

So let's go back to, you said you set up drinks for the team, which included Bruce.

0:20:38.1

Brittany:

Yes.

0:20:39.5

Lisa:

So is that the night the incident happened?

0:20:42.2

Brittany:

No, no.

0:20:43.5

Lisa:

Or this was, this was prior?

0:20:45.5

Brittany:

That was prior, that was prior.

0:20:46.3

Brittany:

Two weeks prior?

0:20:47.8

Brittany:

Probably about three weeks. As soon as I kind of knew the way things were moving, I assumed Steve Ciobo would be demoted and so I was like, alright, okay, new team, we've got to get onboard.

0:20:57.0

Lisa:

So tell me about your interaction with Bruce that night.

0:21:00.2

Brittany:

It was fine. I was mostly concerned with the Primary Media Advisor, a lady named Nikki Hamar, she used to work at Sky and I knew I wanted to not sort of say that I wanted to be above her but I sort of wanted to work with and under her to assist, just throughout the election. I just wanted to maintain a job.

0:21:15.6

Brittany:

And so I wasn't really, I met him but he, I wasn't interested in him. He wasn't like a, he was a policy advisor, I needed to be onside with the media advisor, so, but yeah I met him on that night.

0:21:28.2

Lisa:

So did, you, you had no conversation with him where he came up to you or made any kind of overtures towards you?

0:21:35.9

Brittany:

No, not that night. No.

0:21:36.8

Lisa:

So everything was just completely professional and fine? So when did the suggestion that he was bullying you come about?

0:21:45.8

Brittany:

When the two teams merged, I think there was the power struggle of the existing old people who knew defence industry and then the existing Reynolds staff, trying to sort of sort themselves out in the pecking order. And it was my responsibility to sort of establish the processes, the procedures.

0:22:06.0

Brittany:

Because they didn't have any of that internal office infrastructure. And so I was sort of placed in a position where I had old team members coming to me and I had new team members come to me and I was trying to make it work, because Fiona was also very much preoccupied with the upcoming election.

0:22:21.2

Brittany:

And she did a lot of the movements and stuff in central headquarters in Brisbane for the Liberal Party.

0:22:28.8

Angus:

So is there an argument here that, that Fiona, while she's being seconded to this job, is really actually doing two jobs?

0:22:34.9

Brittany:

Yeah, 100%. Yeah, she was not in the office all the time. Ever. She wasn't even fully Canberra based, she was, everyone was already fully moving and ready for the election.

0:22:42.9

Angus:

Right, right.

0:22:43.8

Brittany:

Yeah, so she wasn't really there and so that's why all these issues were arising because there was no clear person to go to. Linda Reynolds is in WA and so there just all these like weird staffers fighting with each other about order and seniority.

0:22:56.0

Lisa:

So how did she come to the conclusion then that there was bullying going on between Bruce and you?

0:23:01.6

Brittany:

It had been reported to her. I didn't speak to her about it.

0:23:04.4

Lisa:

Who was it reported by?

0:23:05.2

Brittany:

I assume one of the senior advisors, Doug Rid, he had worked for Lockheed Martin, he had been in industry for quite a while and he was kind of, quite, he's a little bit older than all of us, I think he's in his late forties and so, I think he just saw all of it and thought, this is wrong, this is weird and he spoke to Fiona about it, saying you've got to sort it out.

0:23:23.1

Lisa:

And in those moments, where he was asking you to move fridges and you did, what did, how did you react?

0:23:30.2

Brittany:

I just moved the fridge.

0:23:31.8

Lisa:

Right. So there was no, there was no kind of, where he was kind of waiting to see how you'd react? He was just dismissive, and you were a subordinate.

0:23:43.4

Brittany:

Yep, essentially, yeah.

0:23:45.0

Lisa:

Okay.

0:23:45.7

Brittany:

I wasn't concerned.

0:23:47.1

Lisa:

So you had, how many weeks working side by side?

0:23:51.0

Brittany:

Only like two or three weeks. It wasn't a very long time, yeah.

0:23:54.4

Lisa:

And tell me about the event, the night –

0:23:57.7

David:

Do you need me to leave the room? Or do you want me to stay or?

0:23:59.2

Angus:

What, well, I'll tell you what. After we discussed, David had said to me that when it comes to, you know, talking about the particular details, that you know, it'd be best if he wasn't here. What I thought we might do –

0:24:13.9

Lisa:

Yeah, might, when I said event, what I meant was, what led up to –

[0:24:17.3 – all talking at the same time]

0:24:18.2

David:

Oh okay I just don't want to –

[0:24:17.7 – all talking at the same time]

0:24:20.9

Angus:

Well what we thought we might do, we might sort of you know, discuss the chronology and things like that, and then after a break, then we'll see how we go and see how you're feeling then.

0:24:29.7

Brittany:

Yeah of course.

0:24:31.1

Lisa:

So who organized that drinks night.

0:24:34.0

Brittany:

It was done by a lot of the existing Ciobo team officials. There was one guy who was like the ADC to the Chief of Navy, he organized it and then some of the former Ciobo staffers who'd all moved into the Department of Defence, I came down, one of Peter Dutton's media advisors came down. I was the, and we invited Bruce along.

0:24:55.7

Brittany:

I actually had a Tinder date that night, I was recently single and I thought come down for drinks, come be around all my friends and see if you survive. He did not survive.

0:25:04.7

Lisa:

But this is partly because you needed to get along with this guy? You needed to have a good working relationship.

0:25:10.4

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, definitely.

0:25:11.3

Lisa:

And at that point did you think you didn't have a good working relationship?

0:25:13.9

Brittany:

I thought it was fine. I thought it was tenuous and I thought it was stressful but I thought it was more on the basis that these were these two offices merging. There was about to be an election. There was an entire, sort of, the entire mindset of everyone was this was the last hurrah. We were about to lose.

0:25:28.3

Brittany:

We were all going into it with like, we were about to be jobless in like six weeks, whatever, enjoy Canberra while we can. Like that was the entire mentality. Like, I wasn't wedded to the Liberal Party, I thought I would be there for six months.

0:25:40.5

David:

Resume.

0:25:41.2

Brittany:

Yeah I thought of my resume. I was shocked to be there; I was confused by the whole thing.

0:25:46.0

David:

You were twenty-four or something, and you were just like along for the ride.

0:25:48.0

Brittany:

Yeah, like I hadn't finished Uni and so I just kind of thought, oh like this is a weird experience that I've kind of been handed, let's take it. So I moved down here and that's sort of what happened. And so these last six months everyone was sort of this kind of hedonistic mentality of just, this is the end.

0:26:05.9

Brittany:

And so that's kind of like, it was the last hurrah before the election. That's why we invited everyone down, had a big group of twenty people. And they'd all been either working as Liberal Party staffers or were departmental and worked for Defence. That was the group of people that was there.

0:26:23.5

Brittany:

And yeah, I invited my poor Tinder date who was just mercilessly harassed by everyone there and fled.

0:26:30.7

Lisa:

Why was he harassed by them? Because he was your date?

0:26:33.4

Brittany:

No because he was, I think he was from like the Department of Finance or something and there's this hierarchy and staffer in Canberra, it's like Ministers, Members, Staffers –

0:26:44.2

David:
Journalists.

0:26:45.4

Brittany:
Oh Journalists –

0:26:47.3

Lisa:
They're down with used car salesman.

0:26:50.1

Brittany:
And then Departmental folk, because, whether it's deserved or not, we technically get to sort of tell them what to do on a day-to-day basis and so in their mind he was like this lowly departmental official and they were very mean to him and that's why he fled I think.

0:27:01.4

Lisa:
Right.

0:27:02.5

David:
Could have been the one.

0:27:06.0

Angus:
And where was, where were the drinks?

0:27:07.9

Brittany:
At The Dock's, so it's this, this place on the Kingston foreshore. And so there is actually footage, there was a police officer who became involved at a certain point and she has footage of us on the night at The Dock.

0:27:20.6

Angus:
Right. Okay.

0:27:21.6

Lisa:
And what was the night like?

0:27:23.6

Brittany:

It was fine, it was social. There was nothing sort of new; it was obviously the last hurrah. It felt like it was obviously the end. And so we were sort of just lamenting our imminent, what are we doing now?

0:27:35.1

Angus:

Had the election been called by then?

0:27:37.0

Brittany:

Not officially but we all knew. We knew it was within two weeks that he was calling it.

0:27:39.0

Angus:

Right, okay. Right, right, right.

0:27:42.9

Lisa:

And so, were many people drinking a lot?

0:27:47.2

Brittany:

Yeah, everyone. Yeah definitely.

0:27:48.4

Lisa:

Right. So there were a lot of people who were inebriated?

0:27:51.0

Brittany:

Yes, definitely.

0:27:51.6

Lisa:

Right. Was Bruce inebriated?

0:27:55.2

Brittany:

Not that I knew of. I knew he was there. I knew he was socialising. I knew he was buying us drinks but I wasn't really keeping track and he wasn't really on my mind. He was just kind of there. But he was buying rounds and I remember that. I remember being like, oh. I was quite happy about it.

0:28:12.2

Angus:

And was it drinks and dinner? Like, did everyone eat?

0:28:14.1

Brittany:

There was no food. We were just drinking. We were just at the bar.

0:28:18.7

Angus:
And it was a Saturday night?

0:28:20.6

Brittany:
Yeah.

0:28:20.6

Angus:
And what that unusual to catch up with colleagues and people like that on a Saturday in a non-sitting? Oh in a non-sitting week as well?

0:28:31.0

Brittany:
Yeah. No because we thought we were about to go into six weeks of all being disbursed, so we were all going to be around the country somewhere and so this was kind of like the last hurrah type of thing. So it wasn't weird on the basis that we weren't going to be together for the next few months.

0:28:46.4

Angus:
Yeah okay. Yeah I hadn't thought about the fact that you're all going to be disbursed.

0:28:49.8

Brittany:
Yeah, everyone's going to be in a different state, some people are going to be in the central headquarters of the Liberal Party and some people were going to be with their individual Minister's, some people were going to in state head, like headquarters. So that we, this was like sort of the last
—

0:29:00.3

David:
[0:29:00.3] people get fired. Like.

0:29:02.9

Brittany:
Yeah so this was going to be the last group sort of gathering and existing as we would be before the election.

0:29:09.8

David and Angus:
Yeah.

0:29:11.6

Lisa:
So it's one of those situations where you sort of feel like, look who cares, isn't, this isn't going to get up back into office so let's just celebrate while we can that we've been in government.

0:29:19.2

Brittany:
No, no, in my, in the end I thought it was going to be kind of like my last night in Canberra broadly.
Yeah.

0:29:29.9

Lisa:

And so when did Bruce start moving towards you.

0:29:34.9

Brittany:

We went to a second venue. And that sort of when the number of people changed and his sort of interactions with me changed. And we went to this sort of, it's like, sort of a night bar, almost like a nightclub but not quite and there was only six of us left.

0:29:52.5

Angus:

And what's that place called?

0:29:53.3

David:

Eightysix.

0:29:53.8

Brittany:

88.

0:29:54.6

David:

Oh 88. Eightysix was the restaurant. 88mph.

0:29:57.5

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:29:58.4

David:

It was right opposite the Courts.

0:29:59.2

Lisa:

And who were the other four people?

0:30:01.0

Brittany:

Ah one was Peter Dutton's Media Advisor, called Austin Wenke.

0:30:06.0

Lisa:

His name is not Austin Wenke?

0:30:09.0

Brittany:

I'm not joking.

0:30:09.8

Angus:

Sorry how do you spell his last name?

0:30:11.1

Brittany:

W-E-N –

0:30:11.8

David:

Wanky?

0:30:13.5

Brittany:

-K-E. yeah yeah. I know, I'm not joking. That wasn't me just being rude. But that's his name. Look up a press release, you'll find it.

0:30:23.8

Lisa:

And so, is he an older guy? Is he more your age?

0:30:26.3

Brittany:

He's my age, he's my age yeah. And then another one used to work for Steven Ciobo but now works in Defence in some capacity, a Lauren Gianoli, oh no not Lauren Gianoli, Lauren Gain.

0:30:39.9

David:

Yeah, was Lauren Gianoli there?

0:30:41.0

Brittany:

No, no, Lauren Gianoli wasn't there.

0:30:45.0

Lisa:

So have you got all the names?

0:30:48.4

Angus:

So, so, there's Austin Wenke –

0:30:50.4

Brittany:

Lauren Gain, G-A-I-N.

0:30:52.7

Lisa:

And where's she from?

0:30:53.8

Brittany:
She worked in Steven Ciobo's office and now she's in the Department of Defence.

0:30:58.2

Lisa:
Right, okay. The guy from Peter Dutton's office, is he still with Peter Dutton?

0:31:02.1

Brittany:
Yeah yeah yeah.

0:31:02.8

Lisa:
In some capacity?

0:31:03.4

Brittany:
Yeah yeah, definitely.

0:31:04.9

Angus:
And then who else was there?

0:31:06.4

Brittany:
Oh the remaining defence people. I don't know their names sorry.

0:31:08.2

Angus:
Oh okay. Right, right, right.

0:31:09.9

Lisa:
Sort of bureaucrat-type yeah?

0:31:11.2

Angus:
And did you know, did you know these people well?

0:31:13.9

Brittany:
I knew them in passing. I mean I didn't know; I knew Austin well, I knew Lauren well but the rest were kind of you know, just.

0:31:22.0

Lisa:
Have you seen any of them since that night?

0:31:24.0

Brittany:
Austin yeah, Austin works downstairs from me. Yeah. Of course.

0:31:27.0

Lisa:

Right, okay. Right. So there's six of you at the second venue and on a scale of sort of one to the most inebriated you were that night, where do you think you were when you went to the second venue.

0:31:42.9

Brittany:

Probably like an eight. At the start. And then by the end, like I think I got kicked out. I'm not entirely sure, but I wasn't able to stand anymore. I fell over at one point and I think at that point is where the night sort of ended. The bouncer was kind of like okay, you, you should go and I was like –

0:31:59.2

David:

Okay.

0:32:00.6

Lisa:

Were any of them concerned about how you were going to get home?

0:32:05.4

Brittany:

We had like a, once again, so this is kind of where it gets fuzzy, we had sort of like, some sort of discussion on the basis that Lauren and Austin lived in one direction and I didn't live in that direction and Bruce lived broadly in the same direction as I did. So I remember there was sort of that like being, alright well we're going this way and you guys are going that way, catch you later.

0:32:27.8

Brittany:

And that was the general tone of whatever that discussion was. And then sort of the next thing I knew I was in a taxi.

0:32:35.2

Lisa:

Right. Do you remember before you got in the taxi, Bruce making any suggestion of anything towards you romantically, sexually, anything other than the bullying that you'd witnessed to that point where he's concerned?

0:32:50.5

Brittany:

Nothing that seemed like, I don't remember anything of that night. I just want to be, he was like obviously helping me quite a lot. He was very helpful. I remember feeling quite grateful but nothing that would make me feel –

0:33:05.9

Lisa:

That he had anything other than your welfare in mind?

0:33:09.0

Brittany:

Yeah, I remember just feeling embarrassed and it was like oh my gosh I'm so drunk, this is just this person and I was like oh okay, whatever and I remember feeling sort of embarrassed but that was sort of it.

0:33:19.1

Lisa:

So you remember being in the taxi with him, thinking I'm going to be dropped at home.

0:33:25.5

Brittany:

That was what I wanted and I remember him saying at one point we've got to stop by Parliament House, I've got to get something. And being like, okay. I remember being annoyed and being like okay, whatever. But you know, Parliament is a –

0:33:39.5

David:

Fortress.

0:33:41.3

Brittany:

Fortress. There were a billion camera's, there is security guards on every floor. There's a security guard to check in. I don't know, I just. I didn't think, I thought it was weird but I didn't, you're just like that little bit inebriated and so you just kind of think, okay, Parliament, sure, okay whatever, if you need to get something –

0:33:59.3

Lisa:

This is like the most monitored place in the country.

0:34:01.2

Brittany:

Yeah, I don't know. You just. I, I don't, I think about it all the time. I don't know why I thought it was normal.

0:34:07.1

Angus:

And do you guys all have like twenty-four-hour access?

0:34:10.9

Brittany:

Twenty-four-hour access so you can go there at pretty much any time as per necessary but you know, I was in a cocktail dress, I didn't have my staff pass on me. Like it's weird. It was midnight or one am ish, it was in between midnight and one am when we arrived at Parliament House.

0:34:26.8

Lisa:

In a taxi and you don't have the taxi waiting?

0:34:31.3

Brittany:

No, no.

0:34:31.8

Lisa:

You get out of the taxi.

0:34:32.7

Brittany:

Yeah and so the implication was the taxi went off, we've been dropped off. So I was like okay, I guess I'm coming. That was sort of my thing. I was like oh okay, I guess I'm now coming to Parliament House with you.

0:34:42.9

Lisa:

And so what do you remember after you got out of the taxi?

0:34:46.1

Brittany:

I remember him just saying, just shh, just shushing me through security, because he was like, we just, I just need to get my thing and I just need you to be quiet because, and I think the implication of that was in hindsight, I was very, very drunk and he didn't want me to talk to the security guards.

0:35:03.3

Brittany:

But, because I didn't have my pass, there was like a level of sort of things that needed to happen for me to actually get into the building. So he had a swipe pass so he could get us into the building, and there's a second checkpoint inside the Ministerial Wing, where there are two security guards and then you've got to swipe in again and if you have a guest they have to sign in.

0:35:22.7

Brittany:

So apparently, I don't fully remember this but apparently I couldn't sign my name. I was very, very drunk. I couldn't sign my name. But that still, somehow, that process still occurred. I still got in and that was, then he took me up to the Minister's office, and that's where the assault took place.

0:35:39.5

Lisa:

And so, you went to Linda Reynolds' office. Do you remember walking down the corridor towards the room? Do you remember him saying anything about what he was getting?

0:35:53.8

Brittany:

No. No, I remember sitting on the windowsill, because our windowsill overlooked the Prime Minister's courtyard and I remember kind of sitting there waiting for him for a really long time. That was sort of the last sort of things that I have.

0:36:07.4

Lisa:

Right. Okay. So, you would have passed a lot of CCTV camera's.

0:36:13.4

Brittany:

I count them every day I go into office. There are eight that I can see. There are eight.

0:36:20.0

David:

And don't forget she had to go in the same entrance.

0:36:21.6

Brittany:

Yeah my, my, my old, Minister Cash's office used to be right past that same one and so every day I would go through the same entrance that I went through, so I get eight to the same, I'd, I've never been able to, I don't know which security guards I spoke to that night or but I think about it every time.

0:36:37.2

Lisa:

But do you think there were three security guards that would have seen you and personally interacted with you or Bruce?

0:36:45.3

Brittany:

There were two, there were two definitely downstairs every day and every night at the entrance we came through and then there's the one who found me, or the one who woke me up. So there were three.

0:36:59.1

Lisa:

Do you, do you see, I mean do you remember which security guards they were? These people that you see most days when you go to work?

0:37:06.1

Brittany:

So there's sort of like a rotation of about thirty or so security guards at Parliament House and they all sort of move entrances and locations and so, I don't know, I, I, I, I, once again, I feel like there were two guys downstairs and the woman, there was a lady who was the one who yelled out and woke me up the next day. But that's all I kind of have in terms of –

0:37:26.5

Lisa:

So, so let's go back. Because I know when we spoke on the phone you said that there were a number of times that you heard somebody knocking on the door.

0:37:36.3

Brittany:

Yeah, so essentially, it got to the point the next day, Bruce had left. So they have like log in times of exactly when people come and go out of the building. So every individual staff pass, there are little check ins, and so obviously he'd left much earlier at some point during the night and I was still there. That was weird.

0:37:57.4

Brittany:

For someone to be there overnight, on a weekend, on a Saturday, it was morning time –

0:38:00.4

David:

On a guest pass.

0:38:01.7

Lisa:

Yeah without a pass.

0:38:02.8

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, I didn't even have my staff pass on me, they'd just signed me in and so I think there was this level of concern of like, something weird is happening. And so I didn't wake up for a while but I heard this second hand from another person and that someone had come in and found me. They didn't know what to do with me, because I was in the Minister's office half dressed.

0:38:24.2

Brittany:

And so every once in a while, they were coming in just yelling into the office, just hoping I would wake up and then they could deal with it afterwards.

0:38:34.3

Angus:

So who told you that?

0:38:37.7

Brittany:

So each office has like a department liaison officer, it's name is like Chris, Chris Pane and he is in charge of security for the Minister of Defence's office. So he was alerted to a security breach which is why he had information on the event, more so than I did.

0:38:57.0

Lisa:

Do you know what time he was alerted to that?

0:38:59.4

Brittany:

No.

0:39:00.0

Lisa:

As it was happening? Or the following day?

0:39:01.6

Brittany:

It would have been probably the following day. Like a lot of people were already moving on this information the day after, sort of before I had even internalized what had happened.

0:39:13.3

Lisa:

So what time were you woken up by the security guard?

0:39:17.4

Brittany:

Probably, it was quite early, it was probably like eight o'clock in the morning.

0:39:20.2

Lisa:

Right, so it was light outside?

0:39:21.1

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, there was light coming into the office and I woke up there.

0:39:25.8

Lisa:

And what did the security guard say to you?

0:39:27.4

Brittany:

She just asked is everyone okay in there? And I was like, I'm fine.

0:39:31.7

Lisa:

And so that's what she was calling out? So at no point, over this period of time, did anybody actually open the door?

0:39:39.9

Brittany:

I never saw it; I was told someone found me. And that they were just calling into the office because they didn't want to wake me up. They didn't know if I had just –

0:39:48.3

Lisa:

So they'd entered the office –

0:39:49.7

David:

Saw her and just left.

0:39:50.8

Lisa:

Saw you in a state that would indicate you'd been assaulted.

0:39:54.9

Brittany:

Yeah, and they didn't, obviously there was this, there were like three tiers of sort of security around Parliament House. There's like your ministerial security, which is like a certain part of Parliament House, and there's an AFP unit inside Parliament House and then there's the broader AFP around.

0:40:11.2

Brittany:

And so, ministerial security knew something bad had happened and they'd immediately alerted the internal Parliament House but they, no-one knew what to do. They just knew something bad had happened.

0:40:22.3

Lisa:

And they didn't know who the perpetrator was?

0:40:24.1

Brittany:

Well they knew who the perpetrator was. There was no-one there.

0:40:28.3

David:

He'd signed in.

0:40:30.2

Lisa:

Well it's just, it's weird that thing of they didn't know what do to –

0:40:32.1

David:

They didn't call an ambulance, they didn't –

0:40:33.0

Lisa:

It's pretty obvious what's happened and it's pretty obvious what you do. You, you, you check on the physical health of that person immediately.

0:40:41.8

David:

[0:40:41.8] security guards on twenty dollars an hour, they're not, they're –

0:40:45.7

Lisa:

But they've still got processes that they've got to go through and there's also the, the human aspect of is this person actually okay?

0:40:53.0

David:

And obviously they, their processes there, the only reason the police found out was because of security alerting them. Otherwise I don't think the government would, Linda Reynolds and that would have, I think it had reached a point where it was escalated to the police, that's when they started to retreat.

0:41:07.5

David:

Because they wouldn't have reported it to police. Security did.

0:41:10.5

Brittany:

No. Yeah.

0:41:13.3

Angus:

So after you've, after you've been woken up, what do you remember after that.

0:41:19.1

Brittany:

I cried for a little while. I think it took me about an hour to sort of get myself together. I cried.

0:41:22.8

Lisa:

With the security person or were you on your own?

0:41:24.4

Brittany:

No I was on my own. So she just called out and saw that I was okay and I woke up, I yelled back and said I was fine. And I just sort of immediately wanted to put myself together because I knew I was in the Minister's office overnight and security were aware and I knew immediately that that would be a security breach.

0:41:38.9

Brittany:

And so in my mind, immediately I was like oh this is going to be an issue for like work. This will be a job issue.

0:41:44.7

Lisa:

Sorry, can I just stop there. So at no point did that security guard, when you were awake, come in and see you?

0:41:52.6

Brittany:

No. Yeah, no she just yelled into the office.

0:41:55.7

Lisa:

And you said I'm okay. So you stayed by yourself for about an hour, you were crying. Did you call anyone?

0:42:03.3

Brittany:

I called someone on the way home.

0:42:05.6

Lisa:

And who was that if you don't mind telling us.

0:42:06.2

Brittany:

Yep, yeah, no, it was my former partner at the time. We'd been broken up but I told him about, sort of that I was at Parliament overnight, I didn't say specifically that I was assaulted at that point in time but I said that I was at Parliament overnight and he thought that was weird. Because he used to work in the building and for him that was, he was kind of weirded out.

0:42:24.8

Brittany:

And I wasn't, I was kind of freaked out and I didn't really know what to do in terms of details but I just, you know.

0:42:30.3

Lisa:

Were you upset? Would he have known that you were very upset?

0:42:33.8

Brittany:

Yeah, and I, look I went home and I, I saw my roommates and they sort of knew something was wrong pretty quickly and I couldn't talk about it yet, but like they knew it was weird and I also told them I was at Parliament overnight and they were like, mmm okay, that's weird. Yeah.

0:42:54.0

Brittany:

Yeah, and I think at that point it was just, it was this panic thing if I go and this is just like someone who's really liked by my boss and I was so new to the team and I didn't know what to do.

0:43:05.9

Lisa:

You were just processing the whole thing.

0:43:08.5

Brittany:

Yeah it was confusing.

0:43:11.8

Lisa:

And so, did Bruce have any contact with you over the next couple of days before he was called in and sacked.

0:43:19.8

Brittany:

No, we didn't. when, it was kind of noticeable that we didn't talk to each other.

0:43:24.0

Lisa:

Oh so you saw him on Monday?

0:43:25.3

Brittany:

There was a whole day that went past with this like weird normalcy, it was weird.

0:43:27.7

Lisa:
Oh God.

0:43:30.1

Angus:
So like everyone comes to work on Monday –

0:43:31.9

Brittany:
Everything was normal. We all just sat there quietly and did our job and I remember it was weird, because he didn't talk to me and I didn't talk to him so we were all just kind of sitting there sort of in this weird silence, I guess.

0:43:44.3

Brittany:
And I was waiting for the penny to drop. You know when you just kind of know things are about to hit the fan. We were sort of sitting there waiting.

0:43:51.2

Lisa:
Is that because there was a weird atmosphere because you two weren't talking and normally you would or?

0:43:55.5

Brittany:
Probably.

0:43:56.1

Lisa:
Did you get the feeling that maybe there was rumours around or?

0:43:59.8

Brittany:
I don't know. Maybe there was rumour, I wasn't really sure. I was, all I just knew was that there was this feeling of like something, I knew what had happened was obviously wrong and I knew as soon as I woke up and I was by myself and I was undressed essentially, like I knew it was wrong but it just takes you a second to sort of get around it.

0:44:22.5

Lisa:
So Monday passes.

0:44:25.0

Angus:
Well I just want to know, on Monday, like do you have like a sort of Monday morning staff meeting, round table kind of thing or?

0:44:33.7

Brittany:
No we just all kind of came in and did our usual thing.

0:44:35.8

Angus:

Okay so who's in charge, was Fiona in charge of the office, was she in Canberra at that time? She was still in Brisbane. Okay.

0:44:41.1

Brittany:

Nah, she flew in Monday. She came the next day.

0:44:44.5

Angus:

And what about Linda Reynolds?

0:44:46.5

Brittany:

Nah, she was in WA.

0:44:47.4

Angus:

WA. Okay. So who was, if, if you're going to deputise the Chief of Staff kind of gig, if you were away –

0:44:56.3

Brittany:

It would either be Bruce or Doug, who was the other senior advisor so it would broadly like –

0:45:00.2

Angus:

Yeah great.

0:45:02.3

Lisa:

So it was actually your perpetrators job to be across what had happened on Saturday night?

0:45:09.7

Brittany:

Yeah and I guess the DLO, the department liaison, because he would know.

0:45:14.5

Angus:

This is Chris.

0:45:16.6

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. And he was there as a representative of the Department of Defence in the office. That was his job, is to advocate for Defence in the office. So it was just like this weird sort of faitours of silence on that day.

0:45:31.2

David:

So journalists were seeking, he is not connected to the government, he is just seconded across from the Department, they do a year and then they go back to their old jobs or they get promoted into a

new one. So he's not protective of the Liberal Party so to speak. He'd be protective of the Defence Minister because he works at Defence and you please.

0:45:48.7

David:

I've been in government and you please the government of the day. You do what you, so like I work for PM, PMC which is the Departments for the Prime Minister and you just do everything to please them so I don't know if that helps or not, but he'd be someone who –

0:46:01.4

Brittany:

Out of anyone, he'd be the only one who'd probably maybe talk.

0:46:05.7

Angus:

Now I don't expect you to know the answers to this, but do you know how many people would have know what was going on, given that security alert, that Chris had found out. Would he have found out via Defence or is he finding out via Linda/Fiona and that way down?

0:46:26.2

Brittany:

I think he would have found out through Ministerial Security, because his job is to make sure there are no security breaches in the Minister of Defence's office. There was a security –

0:46:35.2

Lisa:

And there had been one.

0:46:36.3

Brittany:

Yeah, so that's how he found out. And yeah, and then you know, the Liberal Party machine kind of took hold of it. So that's how he knew. Yeah.

0:46:48.9

Angus:

Okay, so what's the next, because on your timeline, we've got him being, we've got Bruce being sacked on Tuesday. What's sort of happening from Monday through to Tuesday?

0:46:59.2

Brittany:

So Monday was like this weird sort of plateau day of just faux normalcy. And we all just kind of sat there weirdly. And then Tuesday immediately Fiona was there. She immediately said, in front of people that she wanted to speak with Bruce and I. I immediately thought I was going to be sacked. I just don't know why.

0:47:15.2

Brittany:

I didn't even, I still hadn't fully internalised what had happened yet and I just.

0:47:20.5

Lisa:

Welcome to victim guilt.

0:47:23.5

Brittany:

Yeah, and so like the way, like she was like I need to speak to both of you this morning and Bruce went in first.

0:47:30.1

Lisa:

Did Bruce look at you before he went in?

0:47:32.5

Brittany:

Nah, we, it was, we didn't even talk, we didn't look at each other, like it was this weird, no.

0:47:39.5

Angus:

So sorry, she's saying that she wants to talk to you and Bruce in front of others as well?

0:47:43.6

Brittany:

Yeah yeah, the office knew. The office knew something weird was happening but no-one, it's staffer culture, if something weirds going on, you put your head down and don't ask questions. It's just a part of sort of what it is.

0:47:54.1

Lisa:

Right, so he was in her office for an hour you said?

0:47:57.9

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah.

0:47:59.1

Lisa:

And so no-one said a word to you during that hour?

0:48:01.3

Brittany:

Nah.

0:48:02.2

Angus:

So, sorry he went in first?

0:48:03.3

Brittany:

He went in first, and so by the time I came out, before she called me in he was immediately packing his boxes.

0:48:10.4

Lisa:
Do you know who was in that meeting?

0:48:12.1
Brittany:
Just Fiona and Bruce.

0:48:14.7
David:
And from what you've told me, he just came back to his desk –

0:48:17.6
Brittany:
Didn't say a word to anyone –

0:48:18.4
David:
Just packed up his desk quietly –

0:48:19.6
Brittany:
Just immediately started –

0:48:20.5
David:
Seen by the staff just leaving the office and no-one said anything. They just kind of let it happen.

0:48:24.0
Brittany:
Yeah.

0:48:26.0
Lisa:
But weren't people sort of going, what's going on over there?

0:48:28.2
David:
Why's Bruce packing up? Yeah, there's no-one, none of that.

0:48:29.9
Lisa:
Mind you, how quickly did you go into Fiona's office?

0:48:33.8
Brittany:
Oh, probably until about fifteen minutes or so. I saw him starting to pack up and so mentally I was like, oh okay. This is happening.

0:48:40.4
Lisa:
So she's probably making phone calls and things?

0:48:42.3

Brittany:

I don't know.

0:48:43.2

Lisa:

Because now she had a whole lot of information and they would have had to have worked out what they then do, to manage the situation before she talks to you.

0:48:54.7

Brittany:

I don't, I honestly don't think, I don't know what Bruce told her. To this day I have no idea. I don't know what Bruce said.

0:49:00.9

David:

Except that he wasn't drunk.

0:49:02.7

Brittany:

Yeah, but I don't know what story he gave her.

0:49:06.7

Lisa:

So how do you know that he said he wasn't drunk?

0:49:10.6

Brittany:

Because Fiona said that. Because I was very honest about my account. Like I was very inebriated. I don't know why I was there. I remember a lot of earlier in the night but what I do remember is this is what happened. And it was the first time it sort of; I'd vocalised my experience and I told her verbatim everything that had happened.

0:49:31.8

Brittany:

And I think that was the moment the entire tone of that interaction shifted from, it felt like she was going to fire me, she felt very angry, I had to before we even started I had to sign, re-sign the Ministerial Code of Conduct and like there was all this, sort of initial paperwork that they made me sign at the start of the meeting.

0:49:52.4

Lisa:

Sorry is it still just you and Fiona or were there others in the room?

0:49:54.7

Brittany:

No just me and Fiona at that point in time.

0:49:56.6

Lisa:

So she's got the paperwork there ready for you to sign as soon as you walk in.

0:50:00.8

Brittany:
Yeah.

0:50:01.5

Lisa:
And what did she say was the reason why you needed to re-sign?

0:50:05.2

Brittany:
I don't know, because I was in Parliament House out of hours, there, the conduct that had occurred or the, it was outside of the standard practices of what should be expected of a ministerial staffer. And you know, at the time, I was like sure, I shouldn't have been there after hours and yes I was drunk in Parliament House and it wasn't intention but yeah no.

0:50:26.1

Brittany:
And then just, I was just quite compliant and I signed whatever that was.

0:50:32.7

Lisa:
And did she say that Bruce had admitted to sexual assault?

0:50:36.3

Brittany:
No. So I told her what had happened and I said that I was very, I don't remember all of it. I was quite honest with her and she said at one point that he had stated that he hadn't been drinking and that was sort of a moment and I was like oh, because I had just assumed because he was with us that entire night that he had been.

0:50:56.4

Brittany:
I don't know, you just, you don't pay attention to other people's drinks. You don't really, I don't know, I hadn't been paying attention to him and so that was news to me and then and so that was, and then once that sort of conversation happened, her entire demeanour towards me changed. I think that's when they realised they had a problem.

0:51:16.8

Lisa:
How would you describe this shift in her demeanour?

0:51:21.0

Brittany:
I don't know. It felt like it was a disciplinary meeting and then it felt like it was crisis management very quickly. As soon as I vocalised that I was assaulted and went into sort of kind of details about what I remembered about the assault. That was the moment it kind of shifted. And so she kind of sent me out and that was when other people started coming in.

0:51:41.7

Angus:

Do you know if Bruce was sacked or allowed to resign?

0:51:48.2

Brittany:

No I don't know. I just know that immediately following the meeting he was packing up his box. I don't know whether that was voluntary, I don't know what –

0:51:56.7

Angus:

Did the idea, did you get an inclination that Fiona understood there could have been an assault or anything, that there could have been something more than a security breach by the time that you walked in?

0:52:15.4

Brittany:

Absolutely. There was so many people who had already known. There were so many things actively already happening. The Department Liaison Officer already knew that I'd been found half-dressed by a security guard. I think after the fact, now, I look back and I go, they already knew. They already knew something amiss had happened.

0:52:36.2

Brittany:

And that's why he was sent packing so quickly. If they genuinely didn't think there was any cause I would also be fired. I don't know. I just, I don't, I think there was too many people who knew it was already at the AFP in Parliament House without me ever reporting it, so there was already all these people who knew about what had happened before I did, sort of.

0:52:59.0

Lisa:

I wonder if he thought he was helping his cause by saying he hadn't been drinking.

0:53:02.5

Brittany:

I'm sure he thought he was.

0:53:04.0

Lisa:

But it would have had the opposite effect, because –

0:53:06.6

Brittany:

It's very incriminating.

0:53:07.3

Lisa:

Yeah. There is a sexual assault while you are totally sober, has, has extra kind of layers of intent attached to it.

0:53:16.9

David:

I personally think the fact that he took her back to Parliament House, he's smart enough to know it's a fortress and it's hard to kind of, because if he had taken her anywhere else, she could have gone to the police and the party wouldn't have tried to protect themselves.

0:53:31.5

David:

Because he took her back to Parliament House, they're implicated, they're going to do their best to kind of cover it up. And so I just, there was intent behind it I think. That's, I mean I wasn't there, we hadn't known each other at the time, but from every, I've heard this story ten times and every time you tell it, I just think, why did he do it back at Parliament House?

0:53:53.5

David:

Has he done it before? Or did he plan to do it to someone else? Like, it's just weird.

0:53:59.6

Lisa:

Do you know anything of his dating history?

0:54:03.5

Brittany:

I had just heard some sort of broad rumours recently that he was kind of a bit skeezy with girls and that's sort of all you hear about it. You know, he just -

0:54:09.9

Angus:

Sorry, it makes me sound like an extremely old man, but what does that word mean?

0:54:12.5

Brittany:

Skeezy? I don't know, it's broadly just saying that the way he acts around girls is kind of like slimy, like he's just known to be a bit -

0:54:21.6

David

I'll help you up, that kind of thing.

0:54:22.0

Brittany:

A bit gross. Yeah. And but you hear these things about guys all the time and you just don't factor it in to your professional life, you wouldn't even consider it. I'd never, like in my mind, in terms of stature and size, I was never intimidated by this person. I was never scared of this individual. I knew professionally I broadly had to sort of deal with him but it was never, like I'm not.

0:54:43.5

Brittany:

If I saw him today, I could hit him in the face, it would be fine. Like I'm not physically stature-wise scared of him and so he just didn't even factor into sort of my field of consciousness.

0:54:55.6

Lisa:

And so the fact that you went back to Parliament House with him, you thought nothing of it?

0:55:01.6

Brittany:

I thought it was weird, I thought it was annoying. I remember being like great, we've got a taxi together and now I'm abandoned at Parliament and like of course now I have to come now.

0:55:10.0

David:

Not going to stand outside at one am.

0:55:11.5

Brittany:

Yeah. But I just, it felt like a safe space. There was just so many people and so many camera's and so many lights, it just seemed unfathomable that it wouldn't be fine.

0:55:24.9

Angus:

Before the Tuesday meetings with Fiona. So they're first thing in the morning are they? Had you told other people within the office on that Monday?

0:55:37.8

Brittany:

God no.

0:55:38.2

Angus:

Confided in anyone?

0:55:39.3

Brittany:

Nah.

0:55:40.3

Angus:

So did anyone from the office, given Chris has been alerted to, you know, your state of dress and those kind things by the Ministerial Security, has anyone come up to ask how you are or anything like that?

0:55:57.2

Brittany:

Nah. No. It's a weird work environment where you know, I had an entire team in Ciobo's office who were fired the next week and then everyone was gone. And it's this sort of cut and dried thing. It's not, it's not weird –

0:56:11.3

Lisa:

It's the culture.

0:56:11.8

Brittany:

It's not weird.

0:56:14.3

David:

And you didn't know anybody.

0:56:15.6

Brittany:

Yeah and so this was like a really new team, I'd been a part of this team for two weeks, they didn't know me from a bar of soap, I was brand new to them. I could have just been antisocial, like, it wasn't weird to them.

0:56:28.9

Angus:

But look, if it was me, I don't know how well I'd be able to function on that day.

0:56:34.0

Brittany:

That was the feedback that I got. That was Fiona. She was like, I can't believe you came into work yesterday. And it was just this, this –

0:56:39.8

Angus:

Which is –

0:56:40.2

David:

Exactly. So that means she knew.

0:56:42.3

Angus:

Which is not a problem, there's no, there's no set way to react.

0:56:46.0

Brittany:

No I think it was just this idea of reclaiming, all I wanted to do was just get back to my work. I just wanted to get back to my job. I just wanted to put my head down and keep doing what I was doing. And so I didn't want to talk about it, I didn't want to discuss it. I just, as much as possible, I was just obsessed with the idea of protecting my job.

0:57:03.3

Angus:

And it's, so you've got two flatmates, oh you had two flatmates at the time?

0:57:09.0

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah.

0:57:09.8

Angus:

Had you confided, you told them that you'd been to Parliament House, had you confided anything much more?

0:57:15.8

Brittany:

Not at that time. I think everyone sort of slowly started finding out about a month later about what had specifically happened. But they knew I'd stayed at Parliament House. They knew it was weird. They knew I was acting weird, but they didn't know why yet.

0:57:32.0

Lisa:

Can I just ask a question that I just thought. Is there anyone at all in the period of time between you leaving the room, the Minister's office on the Sunday morning and you being called into Fiona's office, is there anyone who would say you were acting different to your normal self?

0:57:56.3

Brittany:

My roommate at the time. She was the one I came back, I was at Parliament overnight, I told her I was at Parliament overnight, she thought it was weird, I was acting weird, I hid in my room the rest of the Sunday. And that was the only person who sort of knew that, that something fundamentally weird had occurred.

0:58:13.2

Brittany:

And Ben, who I called on the way back in the taxi. He was weird –

0:58:17.5

Lisa:

That's your ex-partner.

0:58:18.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:58:18.9

David:

And Chris didn't say anything at the time. Only afterwards?

0:58:21.4

Brittany:

Only afterwards.

0:58:24.4

Lisa:

Oh what did he say to you afterwards?

0:58:26.1

Brittany:

Ah so he asked me, he said that he'd been alerted to the incident.

0:58:30.3

Lisa:
Did he say when he was alerted to it?

0:58:32.3

Brittany:
No. He didn't say when. He said he'd been alerted to the security breach, he knew that it was me and Bruce and he outright asked me if I'd been raped and that was the first time I'd heard it in such brutal terms and I just cried, in sort of this back room that we had and yeah, and that was when he told me about being found.

0:58:51.9

Brittany:
That they'd come in and they'd seen you first and I, I was very angry at that point.

0:58:56.7

Lisa:
And so those security guards knew that you'd been raped?

0:58:58.9

Brittany:
That something yeah.

0:59:01.3

Angus:
Sorry, when was this discussion?

0:59:03.2

Brittany:
Probably two weeks after. It was before I went off to the election. So it was sort of in the following week or two. Because in between all of this, before the election, it was budget week. So it was this weird like, shut up, we've got budget, like let's not even.

0:59:18.8

David:
We'll deal with you later.

0:59:19.0

Angus:
Yeah.

0:59:19.6

Lisa:
The fact that you'd been sexually assaulted is really not –

0:59:21.8

David:
Got to focus on the surplus.

0:59:23.9

Angus:

I just want to go back to asking a question about when you went into that meeting with Fiona and she asked you to re-sign a Ministerial Code of Conduct. So that's something that you had previously signed.

0:59:39.7

Brittany:

So at the start of your employment with every Minister you have to sign the Code of Conduct. But there was something else I signed that, at that point, once I'd said what had happened, that entire week is like this weird blur of just random stuff.

0:59:54.3

Brittany:

But I signed two things for them and I don't know, I didn't get a copy. I have no idea what I signed and I was by myself so I really didn't know what was fully happening and I was scared for my job and I realised in time I was not, obviously that was intentional, but yeah so I signed two things in that period of that week.

1:00:12.9

Lisa:

And at that moment that you were signing it, that was at the beginning of that meeting, it was before you told her that you'd been raped and it was at a point where you thought, I'm about to be fired.

1:00:24.4

Brittany:

Yep, yeah. And I had, I hadn't –

1:00:26.4

Lisa:

So would you say you were under duress?

1:00:27.9

Brittany:

Oh God yeah. That entire period, yeah. This was –

1:00:32.1

David:

voids any contracts you signed.

1:00:33.1

Brittany:

Yeah no, and this isn't, this wasn't just my boss. She was Director of Operations for the Prime Minister and she was temporarily in my office. It was horrifying. It was, I was a very junior staffer –

1:00:47.9

Lisa:

She had your future in her hands.

1:00:49.3

Brittany:

It was horrifying and say if she fired me on the spot, I had no recourse. Who do I go to? There's no HR in the Liberal Party.

1:01:00.8

Lisa:
What?

1:01:01.7

Brittany:
Yes I know, I know. There's nowhere. I could file a complaint with the Department of Finance which is technically Linda Reynolds' boss which is Mathias Cormann. There was no recourse except contrition in that meeting. Oh sorry – I'm just going to go to the bathroom.

[1:01:16.0 – all talking at once]

1:01:17.7

Angus:
Yeah yeah, have a break.

1:01:19.9

David:
Do you want some water?

1:01:21.1

Lisa:
Do you want some water?

1:01:22.6

Brittany:
That'd be lovely, thank you.

1:01:24.3

Lisa:
I presume there's a mini bar here. You guys are more acquainted with this room than I am.

1:01:29.4

Angus:
Do you guys want another round of coffees. I might run downstairs and get some.

1:01:32.6

David:
Yeah, maybe a, I think so. She's yeah. Maybe that's a good idea.

1:01:38.0

Lisa:
She's doing incredibly well and but she's yeah.

1:01:40.3

David:
[1:01:40.3]

1:01:41.6

Angus:

Yeah, yeah, that's all fine

1:01:42.8

Lisa:

Anything you guys want. But also I want to say to Brittany that whenever she needs a break, just stop. No need to be polite.

1:01:55.9

Angus:

What do you guys have for coffee?

1:01:56.2

David:

I just have an almond latte, because I'm a bit of a wanker and she'll have a long black.

1:02:01.5

Angus:

Okay.

1:02:02.5 INTERVIEW ENDS

1:02:02.5 AUDIO ENDS

COPY OF FIRST MEETING 2**0:00:00.0 AUDIO BEGINS****0:00:01.8 INTERVIEW BEGINS**

0:00:01.8

Lisa:

Look, I, you know. It's the same with, people often ask me oh how do you feel about people coming up to you all the time and saying oh I love your work and it's just like, it's so much better than the alternative. If I'm at a point in my career where I get upset because somebody likes my work, I should not work anymore, because that's, it's the ultimate you've lost any sense of the real world.

0:00:29.2

David:

I'm not a fan of him anymore, so he obviously did some damage there.

0:00:34.4

Brittany:

How will you recover?

0:00:35.1

David:

Oh I'm sure, that Shiraz guy, no-one hates me.

0:00:41.3

Lisa:

So, I asked a question while you were out and we decided to not proceed. It was about your mum, wasn't it?

0:00:49.2

David:

When did you tell your mum?

0:00:50.7

Lisa:

Yeah, when did you tell your mum?

0:00:51.6

Brittany:

I gave her the full details in September after the event. So, I was with Michaelia Cash for about three, two and a bit months, before I told her everything properly, what had happened. She knew the rough outline of it. Something had happened and that the person had been fired, but she didn't know all the other internal pressures that were happening.

0:01:12.0

Lisa:

And did she say that she could see that you were not coping well? When was the first time, if you say that she knew that an assault had happened, how did she know that?

0:01:23.4

Brittany:

I told her, I did. I told her pretty quickly. I don't know whether it was inside the month or inside two weeks, but I had told her that something traumatic had happened at work. I was finding it hard and that, you know. All I ever said was, an assault had taken place and the person was fired. I kept it very broad boned sort of outline type of thing.

0:01:43.0

Brittany:

I just didn't need, I found it hard to talk to them about it because I had to sort of get into the logistical party stuff and the pressure and then as soon as I told them that, there was just no way they could even comprehend why I was still there. So, I just gave them the outline.

0:01:59.2

Angus:

But it's just such a convoluted nightmare. For the assault to happen literally in the workplace and then to have the people that are supposed to be investigating it being your superiors.

0:02:12.4

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, exactly.

0:02:14.7

Lisa:

The conflicts of interest, yeah, and the perpetrator.

0:02:17.6

David:

Like it's not just –

0:02:17.6

Angus:

The conflicts of interest are out, unfathomable.

0:02:22.7

Brittany:

Yeah, and you just, you feel like such a small fish. You just don't know. Even the AFP are accountable to the office downstairs, which is Dutton, and so there was this information loop of if I go to them, they have a ministerial liaison team who speak directly to Dutton's office, so there's just this vacuum of information where you just, who do you talk to? Who on the planet can you talk to if you want to keep your job?

0:02:51.5

Lisa:

So, do you mind if we just go back to the conversation that you had with Fiona Brown? How long did that last?

0:02:57.2

Brittany:

That first one probably lasted about an hour.

0:03:00.6

Lisa:

Ok, that's a lot of talking.

0:03:01.8

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, because we went through in detail about the night, who was there, what had happened, what happened when I woke up. We went through all of that sort of granular detail. And then –

0:03:15.0

Lisa:

And you held nothing back?

0:03:15.7

Brittany:

No, I was very honest and it was, yeah. Once again, the first time I had admitted it to myself, it was the first time I talked to someone about it. I was openly very upset, I was crying.

0:03:26.9

Angus:

Are these glass offices? Can people see that you're in a meeting?

0:03:31.2

Brittany:

People knew I'd gone into the meeting. There was a glass panel, but it's predominantly, you can't just see it from the outside. You'd have to be walking into the Minister's office to see it and there's no reason for anyone to do that.

0:03:43.4

Lisa:

So, what was the, so initially you thought you were going to be sacked?

0:03:48.4

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:03:48.4

Lisa:

She's quite a hard nut.

0:03:51.0

Brittany:

Yep.

0:03:51.0

Lisa:

So she was, by the sounds of things, not sympathetic. Would that be a fair assessment?

0:03:55.2

Brittany:

No, definitely not, no. No, not at all.

0:03:58.1

Lisa:

So, what point did you feel that her tone turned?

0:04:01.8

Brittany:

As soon as I vocalised that I'd been assaulted, that as when everything swapped. It was that sort of crisis management moment.

0:04:11.0

Lisa:

So, can you drill down on what it was that she said that made you think that she was more about, was she more about crisis management than making sure that you were ok?

0:04:23.4

Brittany:

The way that I interpreted it afterwards, I think the way that I looked at it now, which makes me feel like that was after the fact, she said, she gave me, we have this thing called the EAP, which is the Employee Assistance Program. I got a brochure.

0:04:42.6

Lisa:

In that meeting?

0:04:43.3

Brittany:

By the end of that day. I don't know if it was all fluid in that one meeting. I think they may have taken a break and she may have spoken to other people. Eventually, by the end of that day, I had been given a brochure. If I need support, she said, you can get support through this brochure. And yeah, she said if you want you can take the rest of the day off. You can go home for the rest of the day. And I did. I went home for the rest of that day.

0:05:13.1

Angus:

Did you, did you use the EAP? Did you call them?

0:05:16.4

Brittany:

I tried to but there was this month-long waiting period to even get a booking with anymore and at that point I was too traumatised and I couldn't, I wasn't even fully able to comprehend what had happened to me. So, the prospect of waiting on the phone, it took me an hour to get through to this person to say that there was a month to talk to someone, I was like this is not working for me. And I was about to go into the election cycle and I was I'm going to be somewhere, I don't even know where.

0:05:42.2

Angus:

The difference between the EAPs are enormous. I had a crisis once and I called. I got straight through, spoke to the psychologist and went oh God, this is brilliant. Whereas others are left on the phone for an hour and it's completely useless. You may as well not have an EAP if it doesn't work.

0:06:00.3

David:

I think it's worth mentioning, because I don't know if it's in this. The fact that you spoke to, the Liberal Party provided her a psychologist who encouraged her not to do anything about it.

0:06:11.1

Lisa:

Ok, so who was that?

0:06:13.1

Brittany:

I've got an email of it somewhere, I don't even know her name.

0:06:16.5

Lisa:

Is that an email that you can retrieve?

0:06:17.9

Brittany:

Yeah, probably.

0:06:19.9

Lisa:

Because you've how long have you got still working for them?

0:06:24.4

Brittany:

I'm going to probably resign next Friday and then I'll have two weeks after that, that I have to do just time in lieu, and then yeah. Because full disclosure, I've spoken with Sam, Sam Maiden, who's a friend of ours, and she knows everything. So she's pretty keen to get it out on a sitting week I guess but I just can't be there.

0:06:46.6

Lisa:

Of course, of course.

0:06:46.8

Brittany:

I can't begin to imagine how horrible that would be.

0:06:50.1

Lisa:

So that, that email that you got from the psychologist, can I suggest that you retrieve that?

0:06:55.7

Brittany:

Yeah, definitely.

0:06:56.8

Lisa:

Today?

0:06:56.8

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah.

0:06:57.9

Lisa:

Given what happened to your phone, which we'll get to, I'd be retrieving that in the next 24 hours.

0:07:05.9

Brittany:

Yeah, and it was more just like, I don't know if it was psychologist or a counsellor, but it was just talking me through my experience and then made disparaging comments probably to the prospect of talking in terms of career implications and media wise and all that kind of stuff, because on the basis that this is, this would be a political issue. And so at that point I disengaged. I didn't have that conversation anymore. I didn't speak to that person again.

0:07:33.1

Lisa:

And this person is a qualified psychologist?

0:07:34.9

Brittany:

I have no idea. I have no idea. It was just referred to me. They were just if you need someone to speak to, this is someone you can talk to.

0:07:40.7

Angus:

It's very easy to find out if they're registered currently. My wife is a psychologist.

0:07:46.9

David:

That's why you're so good.

0:07:48.9

Angus:

My wife trains me. But it's very easy to figure out if people actually have kept up those qualifications. About 50% of the people who call them psychologist were psychologists. Did the degree and not currently still doing it.

0:08:02.5

Lisa:

So, as to the timeline on that, you tried to call the EAP number how soon after you sat down with Fiona Brown?

0:08:10.1

Brittany:

Probably within 48 hours.

0:08:11.9

Lisa:

And you couldn't get through. Did you report back to Fiona Brown or anyone who works for her?

0:08:16.9

Brittany:

About the EAP?

0:08:17.5

Lisa:

About not being able to get through?

0:08:19.4

Brittany:
No.

0:08:20.1

Lisa:
Well, nobody else would have –

0:08:21.9

Brittany:
Pardon?

0:08:21.9

Lisa:
Nobody else in the office would have known what happened.

0:08:25.3

Brittany:
No. So, pretty much it was all, it was kind of like Fiona felt she was my case manager and so there was still so much fear around talking to her about how I was processing and dealing with it, because it still felt like I was on trial. It still felt like at any day they could drop a hammer and if you're a ministerial staff member, they don't have to give you cause, they don't have to give you three strikes, they can just write out a form. I've seen the form. Just say that you're not meeting standards and you're gone. So, I was trying to keep it internalised as much as possible until I could figure out what I wanted to do next.

0:09:02.0

Angus:
Did Fiona give you an indication of what was, that there was an investigation going on?

0:09:09.2

Brittany:
She told me that they were doing an internal review of their ministerial security procedures.

0:09:14.8

Angus:
So, was this in that hour meeting or –

0:09:16.9

Brittany:
No, that was afterwards, afterwards. And that sort of happened inside of that week following period. She said the internal ministerial security system, they're doing an internal review on what happened and they're going to make sure this doesn't happen again so that people can't come through late at night [0:09:32.0] and these sort of things can't happen again.

0:09:33.8

Angus:
That's not quite answering the question of the assault. Do you know if there was, that's like she's treating something, a completely different thing. Do you know if there was something investigating the incident that happened as a workplace incident?

0:09:51.8

Brittany:

She never fully indicated that there was, but Kunkel, so this gentleman named Kunkel and he's the Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister, and he was coming into our office quite frequently. You never see him. He's way to big to be entering anyone's office.

0:10:07.6

David:

Especially before an election.

0:10:08.9

Brittany:

Yeah. So, he was coming in and his little executive assistant, who I knew, Daniel Wong, was coming into our office during that week period and speaking with Fiona. And pretty much every time they came in, they spoke to Fiona and then I would go in. And it was a sort of like flow on effect of they were handling Fiona then Fiona was handling me. They were part of this process of just dealing with whatever was happening.

0:10:31.9

Lisa:

Did you have a meeting that included Kunkel?

0:10:34.1

Brittany:

No. No, the only person I ever spoke to was Fiona and then there was that one meeting with Linda Reynolds and that was it.

0:10:41.1

Lisa:

So, still sticking with the Fiona, because we'll get to the Linda Reynolds meeting. Did Fiona ask you are you ok? Do you want to press charges? Were you physically hurt during the assault?

0:10:59.3

Brittany:

She didn't ask me if I was ok. She didn't ask me, no, she didn't ask me specifically how I was doing after the assault. Nothing, nothing personal. It was never, never moved to a personal point. Wasn't checking in on me on that basis. But she said if you chose to proceed with police proceedings, that we wouldn't stop you.

0:11:21.8

Brittany:

And I remember that and I remember thinking that's nice. Yeah, and that was one thing she said to me and then that line, that very specifically crafted line, was used again by Reynolds. That exact same line. I remember being that's not a normal way to say that sentence and you know, that's kind of what I do. I craft really cagey lines and technically get you off but also are not real lines.

0:11:46.2

David:

They can't stop you isn't –

0:11:48.5

Brittany:

No, but it was moreso like give us a heads up.

0:11:52.6

Lisa:
Did she say those words?

0:11:54.2

Brittany:
Probably not. She's probably been in the game too long to actually ever explicitly say those words, but that was always the intention. If you're doing something, we need to know. And that was always very much impressed upon me and it's probably not what you want to hear, but this is what was, it was this whole pressure around if you choose to say anything, we need to be involved in this because we're going to sort it out and that was –

0:12:22.2

Lisa:
Did she use those words, we'll sort it out?

0:12:27.5

Brittany:
I don't know. I couldn't –

0:12:30.3

Lisa:
That was the implication?

0:12:31.2

Brittany:
Yeah, basically. Because it wasn't about me, it was never about me, and I knew that. It was always transcended to being this political issue. It was just before the election. We'd just had these conversations about there being a woman problem. It was implicitly known that on the basis of where this assault happened, that this was an inconvenience, that this was going to be an issue. And that's why there was so much pressure and so much strangeness about it and why it was so micromanaged, on the basis not of an assault but because of where it happened and who it was connected to.

0:12:59.0

David:
Got to be Linda.

0:13:00.5

Brittany:
I was entirely aware of that the entire time. It wasn't about me, they didn't care about me, it wasn't, I was neither here nor there, it was about the location. It was about the timing.

0:13:10.8

Lisa:
What did she tell you about what had happened to Bruce in that meeting before yours?

0:13:16.1

Brittany:
She had told me at the start that he was no longer with us or that she'd fired him or he wasn't a part of the team anymore, and that set out the start of that conversation.

0:13:29.5

Lisa:

Do you think that was meant, did she say it in a way that made you think she's trying to make me feel –

0:13:38.1

Brittany:
Intimidated?

0:13:38.1

Lisa:
No, well, was she trying to make you feel safer or do you think, given that she, by the sounds of things she knew exactly what had happened, but it just hadn't been verbalised yet. Because by the sounds of things, Bruce didn't admit to it, but she had the evidence to say that what had happened. Or do you think she was doing it to intimidate you?

0:13:57.8

Brittany:
I think honestly, if I never had verbalised to her what had happened in that room, I think she would have fired me on the basis of I'd breached ministerial standard and there was plausible deniability that oh yeah, she was in Parliament House drunk late at night. And I think that's the way it was gearing up. It felt like a disciplinary meeting and as soon as I said that I'd been assaulted, all of a sudden then she had to take a different tact. But I felt like it would have been easier for them at that point to just go ok, she's gone.

0:14:27.3

Angus:
So, it feels like to me at a guess that he was either let go or allowed to resign for the security breach and the serious inappropriateness of something happening.

0:14:40.3

Brittany:
Yeah.

0:14:41.4

Angus:
Whereas, but not even, because he was the first person to be interviewed and then, and then a decision was made and he left, there wasn't even a discussion about whether there was illegality and assault. It's a super weird way to do an investigation, to just sack someone on the spot. You would usually suspend them, either with or without pay. You would have some form of HR. You would have some kind of WorkCover investigation and you have some kind of police investigation while all those things are going on. But it doesn't even seem to be that there was a conversation because she changed her tact when you said that there was a rape.

0:15:25.9

Brittany:
Yeah, and that's fundamentally when I think it all moved. I think they would have fired me if I didn't just tell them straight up and was honest.

0:15:34.2

David:
Plausible liability.

0:15:35.0

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah.

0:15:37.4

Lisa:

Do you think she thought that you might have consented?

0:15:43.0

Brittany:

No. Nah. Just on the basis of how I was found and the fact that they would have had log-in times of when he left. Why would I just sleep over on a Minister's couch half dressed? It just, she's too smart. She's a terrifying person. There's no way she wouldn't know.

0:16:06.0

Angus:

Illegality. There, please don't think I'm making a judgement in any way when I ask you some of these about timing.

0:16:17.0

Lisa:

I knew there was a question I wanted to ask. You go.

0:16:19.6

Angus:

About timings and things like that.

0:16:21.1

Brittany:

Yeah of course.

0:16:22.0

Angus:

Because you've got a lot to process. This could be years in advance when you might want to call the police, but was there any time between Sunday morning and waking up where you thought yeah, I should call the cops about this?

0:16:40.0

Brittany:

No. I was, I was too scared. On the basis of who it was, on the basis of where I worked, I knew the moment I went to the police it would be a media story. I was always very cognisant of the fact that the moment this was reported, this will be a story. Not because of me, not because of Bruce, but on the basis of a) where it happened and b) who I worked for. And I was always hyper-conscious of the media commodification of my story and I was scared of it.

0:17:05.3

Angus:

That's the most understandable thing in the world because you know how it works.

0:17:09.4

Brittany:

Yeah. And so I was really fucking terrified. And I still at that point was still processing. I honestly, until I spoke to Fiona, that was the first time I said that I'd been raped. Yeah. So it was still –

0:17:25.4

Lisa:

Because also, the words that are swirling around in your head as a Liberal Party staffer at that point in time was the Liberal Party's got a woman problem.

0:17:33.3

Brittany:
Yeah.

0:17:34.5

Lisa:
And you were about to –

0:17:35.8

David:
Be one of those problems.

0:17:36.3

Lisa:
Be the cherry on the top of the women problem cake.

0:17:39.7

Brittany:
Yeah, I know.

0:17:39.7

Lisa:
So that, I mean the stress and the, probably the guilt and all of the things that must have come with that.

0:17:46.4

Brittany:
And just before an election. They were pulling the trigger in the days and I knew that I just –

0:17:51.3

Lisa:
And it was tenuous for the Liberal Party.

0:17:53.5

Brittany:
Oh I felt it. It was this intense pressure. It's hard when you're having to break it down into conversations, but it was just a swirling pressure of, I'd never seen Kunkel in my life. All of a sudden he's in my office very day. And Fiona Brown, who I'd only met twice, all of a sudden, who I knew worked for the Prime Minister, was suddenly talking to me about this deeply personal issue.

0:18:13.3

Brittany:
I'd met Linda Reynolds twice, once when she'd hired me and once when she came down for a sitting. I didn't know these people. These were not people that I knew and suddenly I was having to sort of have these really intense discussions where they deeply, deeply did not enjoy my presence because I was this big complication for them. They didn't know what to do.

0:18:30.0

Lisa:

So, all of this pressure was, it was visual and it was implied.

0:18:35.3

Brittany:
Yeah.

0:18:36.5

Lisa:
People don't need to say stuff for you not to feel like my problem is going to cause a huge problem for everyone else.

0:18:44.7

Brittany:
Exactly.

0:18:44.9

Lisa:
And you wanted to have a future working in this place.

0:18:49.7

Brittany:
Yeah, it sounds corny but this is my dream job. I used to watch West Wing. I saw me in C J Craig.

0:18:56.6

Angus:
We all did.

0:18:59.2

Lisa:
I wanted to be Mary Tyler Moore but that's so far before you were even part of the scenario. Just, this was the thing that I really wanted to ask, because it probably would inform the way that you responded to her questions once she knew there was a rape. Did she give you any impression at all that you might have been a little bit at fault because you were drunk?

0:19:31.1

Brittany:
I think there was, there was always the tone of allegation, wasn't proven. It was just, it was always that tone of this is not confirmed yet, even though I had expressed my experience as a rape, she would never sort of reconfirm that language back to me. It was always, you know, and that's maybe because of her background in media sphere. I guess you can't ever say that it's an assault until it's been proven and all that sort of stuff.

0:19:59.6

Brittany:
But it was always that sort of side-stepping the incident had occurred. It was always the allegation, the incident, and that's sort of how I refer to it a lot of the time now still, because it was just reinforced that it was just –

0:20:12.1

David:
You only called it a rape to me a month ago.

0:20:15.4

Brittany:

Yeah and so, yeah. So it was always that side-stepping of actually calling it what it was.

0:20:24.4

Angus:

So I think on our timeline it was Wednesday that the police, the internal Parliament House police spoke with you?

0:20:37.8

Brittany:

Yes.

0:20:37.8

Lisa:

Are they a division of the AFP?

0:20:40.9

Brittany:

I don't know. There's delineations of structures of AFP but they have their own jurisdiction inside Parliament House. So, there's a separate unit.

0:20:47.1

Angus:

The Vatican City.

0:20:49.7

David:

As a side note, there's a plaque on the front of Parliament House, at the front lawn, that's basically where the police jurisdiction stops. So you have to be invited in as police department house. So, I have a friend who works for the SAC house squad, sexual, he wanted to go after a politician who was an alleged paedophile. He had to wait for him to leave Parliament. You're not allowed in unless you're invited in. The sergeant, the Senate has to invite you into Parliament House.

0:21:12.5

Brittany:

It's got its own weird little sovereign state, it's weird.

0:21:16.5

Lisa:

Wow.

0:21:17.5

Brittany:

Yeah, kind of. So they have their own internal parliament, their own little AFP unit in the bottom, in the basement of Parliament House. And so I was picked up by these two women, they were very nice, and they took me downstairs and they told me that they were informed by ministerial security that an incident occurred. They'd known the check-in time that the incident had occurred. They just got me run through it.

0:21:40.4

Angus:

And this is on the Wednesday?

0:21:41.3

Brittany:

Yeah. And they said that they obviously, they didn't have jurisdiction to prosecute it, but they'd like to refer it to the sexual assault and child –

0:21:50.0

David:

SACAT.

0:21:50.0

Brittany:

Yeah, it's a speciality sexual assault unit in Canberra, and they did that for me. And so that's what that conversation did.

0:21:58.0

Angus:

Do you know if that Parliament House team spoke to your superiors or did they just come direct to you?

0:22:04.5

Brittany:

They informed Fiona. They let her know that I was going to speak to them. I've got their names down there. I've managed to –

0:22:12.3

Angus:

Oh yeah, yeah, Rebecca's someone.

0:22:15.4

Brittany:

Oh that's the SACAT lady but there's another lady in, where was she?

0:22:22.1

David:

Oh Katie Fielding.

0:22:24.9

Lisa:

So who decided that you were going to go down that pathway?

0:22:28.8

Brittany:

It was a part of the, it was sort of parliamentary procedure. I hadn't actually approached a police officer at all during this process.

0:22:39.7

David:

Lots of private and sensitive information was passed around around her.

0:22:44.6

Brittany:

It was weird. And so yeah, they contacted me and I said yes, that I would speak with them, and so Fiona was looped in on those emails and then they took me downstairs and I spoke with them.

0:22:55.5

Angus:

And was that a recorded conversation?

0:22:58.7

Brittany:

I don't remember if they had a recorder on or not. But no, there was two of them there. I'm sure they might have some sort of calendar invite. I don't know.

0:23:10.3

Angus:

But two female staffers, two female officers?

0:23:12.6

Brittany:

Yeah, were there, yeah.

0:23:14.6

Angus:

Ok.

0:23:14.6

Lisa:

So what were the, what was the purpose of that?

0:23:17.8

Brittany:

To just sort of ascertain the events that had happened I guess. To speak to, yeah. I wasn't really sure. I just knew that they contacted me and so I just did it. I was still kind of in a haze, so I just.

0:23:33.6

Lisa:

So once you finished that meeting, did they say to you we'll be in touch?

0:23:38.0

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, they were great. They provided me with a contact to the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and so I spoke with them for a really long time. And then they also referred me on to the actual AFP in Canberra who had any sort of means of prosecuting it or taking it further.

0:23:54.0

Lisa:

Ok. And so you did call or you didn't call the police?

0:23:58.6

Brittany:

Well they called them on my behalf. So I spoke to the AFP unit in Parliament House and then they referred it on to the AFP and then those women, they contacted me and then I went to the other AFP.

0:24:09.3

David:

They picked you up from Parliament and took you to –

0:24:10.6

Brittany:

Yeah. I had like a detail. It was pretty fun.

0:24:15.0

Angus:

Sorry, did they say that they, you said before that they would like to, they said that they would like to refer it.

0:24:21.4

Brittany:

Yep, they needed my consent to do that and I consented.

0:24:24.0

Angus:

Ok, because I'm just wondering about mandatory reporting kind of stuff, because I would have thought they would have to report, but they still needed your consent to.

0:24:32.7

Brittany:

Yeah, to actually take it on to the next unit.

0:24:35.1

Angus:

Ok, because there's clearly a very serious allegation, an allegation of a very serious crime that's happened on their watch.

0:24:43.8

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:24:44.6

Angus:

They're the ones in charge of security.

0:24:47.5

Brittany:

Yep.

0:24:48.0

Angus:

Yeah, I would have, ok, that's interesting about whether they, whose details are being passed around and where. How are you feeling after talking to them, being given those contacts, being able to talk to the Canberra Crisis Centre? Were you feeling like you were being a bit more supported there?

0:25:09.2

Brittany:

I was. The AFP I've got nothing but praise for. They were great to me. But you know, there was obvious limitations in terms of things that came up in terms of onus of proof, in terms of getting

footage from Parliament House. They were already starting to get blockades in terms of actually being able to retrieve evidence.

0:25:26.5

Lisa:

Stop right there. Tell me about the blockades.

0:25:29.7

Brittany:

So, ultimately when I went to the AFP unit in Belconnen, which is a suburb of Canberra, she had already taken footage of the Dock, which is our original venue. She was already getting stuff. She was already, she was gearing up for a fight, she was amazing.

0:25:44.2

Angus:

Right, as I said, that's the private down at Kingston. Yeah, right.

0:25:48.3

Brittany:

So, she'd already gotten that footage. She hadn't gotten it from the second venue but she said she'd approached Parliament House and she was already starting to get push back in terms of being able to retrieve footage from that night of me going up.

0:25:59.9

Lisa:

CCTV within Parliament House?

0:26:01.4

David:

The eight cameras or whatever it is.

0:26:03.1

Lisa:

Yeah.

0:26:03.1

Brittany:

Yeah. And so, she had already hit that wall and she's like I'm ready to go this, but then she talked me through the likelihood and all that kind of stuff and at that point I was getting so much pressure from the party, I wasn't ready for a fight. I couldn't do it.

0:26:16.9

Lisa:

Do we know the name of this police officer?

0:26:18.7

Brittany:

Yeah, Rebecca, Rebecca, what's her name?

0:26:22.2

David:

Cleaves I think it is.

0:26:23.4

Brittany:

Yeah, Cleaves.

0:26:24.8

David:

Rebecca Cleaves, Sarah Harman.

0:26:25.5

Angus:

Sarah Harman.

0:26:27.1

David:

Yeah, they're two SACAT people.

0:26:29.5

Lisa:

And what did they say to you about the push back?

0:26:32.9

Brittany:

That they'd approached Parliament House for the footage of that night and that they hadn't been able to get it yet but they'd had some sort of resistance or push back or that was the sort of terminology she used.

0:26:45.1

Lisa:

Was she hopeful that she would, with enough push back of her own, that she might get it?

0:26:52.6

Brittany:

I don't know. It felt kind of dubious. She felt like it was dubious. It's, for example, Parliamentary Services is the one department in Parliament House that can't be [0:27:06.4]. You can't get any information from them, not even during Senate estimates. It's this one safe body. So for them to release footage, it's entirely at their discretion. They don't have to do anything.

0:27:18.1

Lisa:

But if a rape's taken place or an alleged rape has taken place, they still have the right to –

0:27:24.0

Brittany:

They've got a level of sovereignty.

0:27:25.6

David:

Parliamentary privilege.

0:27:27.1

Brittany:

It's so weird.

0:27:29.5

Lisa:

That's sick.

0:27:30.4

Brittany:

Yeah. And so, she was already getting push back and I was personally getting a lot of pressure about ok, are you coming on the election?

0:27:38.2

Lisa:

This is really interesting. Now we're starting to get into an area of responsibility towards –

0:27:44.3

Angus:

So Parliamentary Services is the one that runs all security, that little version of the cops?

0:27:50.5

Brittany:

Yep.

0:27:51.3

Angus:

And that kind of stuff. But they've got this diplomatic immunity kind of thing.

0:27:54.6

Brittany:

Yeah and it's known by the press gallery journalists. You can't –

0:27:57.8

David:

You don't even both FIO-ing them.

0:27:59.6

Brittany:

You can't. You don't get it.

0:28:00.6

David:

Because you just can't get it.

0:28:01.4

Brittany:

It's the only government department that you can't get anything from.

0:28:05.2

Angus:

Wow.

0:28:06.3

Brittany:

So you can't get logs as in who checks in at what time because that's the discretion of the Minister.

0:28:11.5

David:

You can't know when the Minister came in to –

0:28:14.4

Brittany:

Yeah, or it's seen as a level of national security as well. There's all these arguments around the Department of Parliamentary Services about who's coming and going into Parliament House on the basis that it's a protectionist thing.

0:28:25.9

Lisa:

So if Bruce was going to commit a rape, he chose wisely didn't he?

0:28:28.9

David:

It's the perfect place to do it. That's what makes me think he's, he –

0:28:33.6

Lisa:

Premeditated.

0:28:34.0

David:

Yeah. The fact that he wasn't drinking and he was helping you up. He was trying to coax you into a false sense of security. He's a predator. I'm sorry.

0:28:45.0

Angus:

Was he, do you know if he was in a relationship at the time?

0:28:47.0

Brittany:

I don't think so, no.

0:28:53.7

Angus:

Ok so, furthering along that –

0:28:55.5

Lisa:

Oh, I know what we should ask there. You said that you tried to get the CCTV because you felt like all of these other people were seeing the CCTV and you hadn't seen it yourself?

0:29:06.7

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:29:06.7

Lisa:

So, what's the timeline between you asking for it and the police separately asking for it?

0:29:14.4

Brittany:

Probably by the time I actually spoke to the external police unit, there was probably a three-week period and I didn't even want it for prosecution, I just wanted it for myself to contextualise my experience. And I probably asked about four or five times over a three-week period and it was always rebuffed and just kind of passed off.

0:29:34.9

Lisa:

So given that Fiona was giving you a psychologist you could speak to and the EAP and all of that, did you, when you discovered that there were these blockages to get in the CCTV, did you ask would it be possible to see the footage? Did you ask her? Or Linda Reynolds?

0:29:58.0

Brittany:

No. So I asked them during the process but as soon as I'd gone to the police, I was, I hadn't decided whether or not I wanted to proceed and I was really terrified. The moment I informed the Liberal Party that I was formally going to the police, it would have just exploded. And so, I just, I wanted to keep it under wraps until I could figure out or ascertain what my prospects were. I needed to figure that out.

0:30:26.7

Lisa:

Because you were having to weight absolutely everything up at this point.

0:30:30.4

Brittany:

Yeah, and at the same time, it was after budget at that point and we were just about to go into a, Fiona was putting a lot of pressure on me to go ok, we'll pay you out. You can go home if you want for the election. We'll pay you out.

0:30:43.3

Lisa:

So when you say pay you out, do you mean like go on a six-week holiday, fully paid –

0:30:48.2

Brittany:

I would just have to go home.

0:30:49.0

Lisa:

But you'd still have a job.

0:30:50.0

Brittany:

No, no. So I asked that question at the end. I was like ok, so if I go what happens at the end? How do I come back? And she said well you wouldn't. And that was when I, that's when I fully internalised that if I went down this path, I wouldn't be coming back.

0:30:50.0

Angus:

So was there a contract end date that they would be paying you out to?

0:31:12.7

Brittany:

They would just pay me for the rest of the election, as per my existing contract. And at the end of the election, we'd all have to re-sign new contracts anyway, so they'd just pay me out till the end and then whether we won or lost it didn't matter, I just wouldn't have a job.

0:31:26.7

Angus:

You wouldn't have a job.

0:31:27.7

Lisa:

Did she say why you wouldn't have a job?

0:31:31.0

Brittany:

Not specifically, but it was just on the basis that you've taken a payout, you'd left, you were no longer required I guess was the implication.

0:31:40.8

Lisa:

So did you put to her the option that you didn't want to leave?

0:31:45.3

Brittany:

Well yeah, I was very adamant that I loved my job and that I wanted to stay. And then sort of the counter to that was well we'll got to WA and I did. I went to WA.

0:31:58.5

Lisa:

So, I'm just trying to work out if she basically gave you no reason why you would no longer have a job.

0:32:10.7

Brittany:

I didn't feel as if I was given any reason. Once again, it would be a new employment contract so technically, she didn't say anything wrong. She just wasn't promising for a pre-empted employment contract that existed in the future. So she didn't say I wouldn't, once again she's been around the block for decades. She's been around since the Howard era. She knows how to phrase things. Yeah, but I wouldn't have a job after the election, regardless of whether we won or lost.

0:32:39.9

Lisa:

So you went to WA but you kept your job?

0:32:44.5

Brittany:

I did.

0:32:45.7

Lisa:

So how did that play out?

0:32:47.7

Brittany:
Oh Linda Reynolds hated me. It was very awkward.

0:32:48.9
David:
[0:32:50.2]

0:32:51.3
Brittany:
No, she kept me at like an arm's length and that election period was hell. I'd never been to WA before. It had been probably a month after the assault had happened and I was by myself in Perth.

0:33:04.7
Lisa:
Doing what?

0:33:05.6
Brittany:
Just campaigning. Just general media comms stuff on behalf, helping co-ordinate the State drops and media announcements.

0:33:13.3
Angus:
Sorry, I'm ignorant of Reynolds' status. Is she –

0:33:20.0
David:
She'd hate that.

0:33:20.5
Angus:
Is she a Senator?

0:33:23.0
Brittany:
Yeah.

0:33:24.3
Angus:
She's a Senator for WA?

0:33:24.8
Brittany:
Yes.

0:33:25.4
Angus:
Ok, right.

0:33:26.1
Brittany:
So, she's Senator of WA and at that time she was Minister for Defence Industry.

0:33:30.1

Angus:

Yeah, yeah. Ok so you were campaigning, helping her campaign for –

0:33:36.7

Brittany:

For WA.

0:33:37.3

Angus:

WA? So her senate seat was up?

0:33:39.4

Brittany:

Yeah, her senate seat was up but predominantly I was focused on Swan, the election of Swan, Hasluck and Canning. So those were my three seats that I looked after.

0:33:48.5

David:

And you were just by yourself. They didn't want you near them, right?

0:33:50.8

Brittany:

No. She kept me as far away as possible from Linda Reynolds. From the incident out, they, I was broadly toxic. They wouldn't have me in any of her events. I was not, I was operating quite independently. They didn't want me at any of her stuff.

0:34:08.1

Lisa:

Had you been told that Linda Reynolds knew what happened?

0:34:10.5

Brittany:

We had a meeting, yeah. So a week following the actual event itself, after I went to the AFP Unit in Parliament House, she, I've got a WhatsApp from Fiona saying that Linda wanted to speak with you and they set up this informal meeting of Fiona, Linda and myself. And this was the first time I'd been back in that room. So they set this meeting up and it was in the room the assault happened.

0:34:37.3

Angus:

So sorry, the assault happened in Linda's office?

0:34:41.3

Brittany:

Yes. Specifically in Linda's office on the couch that's in her office.

0:34:46.0

Lisa:

So presumably opposite her desk?

0:34:47.3

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. So we've got like this wider office where everyone goes to and then there's the Minster's office inside of that. So the actual assault happened inside the office. And they were all aware of that, they all knew the particulars of what had happened.

0:35:00.3

Angus:

And was that where you woke up? That's where you were found?

0:35:02.7

Brittany:

Yeah, on that couch.

0:35:04.2

Angus:

On that couch? Ok.

0:35:06.3

Brittany:

And yeah, and so they organised this meeting and it was the first time I'd gone back into that room. So predominantly and personally I remember the meeting kind of but I was just having a broad panic attack about, it was right there and so yeah, it was really hard.

0:35:26.9

Lisa:

And you didn't say anything like this is the room where it happened?

0:35:33.1

Brittany:

I don't know. It just felt super obvious right?

0:35:37.1

Angus:

Yeah.

0:35:38.2

Brittany:

Yeah and –

0:35:38.2

David:

That's the bit that hurts me the most. Just –

0:35:41.2

Lisa:

The insensitivity of it. Obviously designed to intimidate you.

0:35:45.2

Brittany:

Yeah and that was where they said that if I choose to go to the police, that they wouldn't stop me. That was when that wording came up. That was that meeting.

0:35:52.7

Lisa:

So that wasn't the second time you'd heard it, that was the first time you'd heard it?

0:35:56.5

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:35:58.6

Angus:

So you'd already been talking to AFP by this stage?

0:36:01.4

Brittany:

The, yeah, the one inside but they were all worried about –

0:36:04.2

Angus:

Outside AFP.

0:36:04.7

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah and broadly beyond that one key sentence, it was all kind of quite comforting. They spoke to the fact that they understand that an incident occurred. They were really sorry.

0:36:20.5

Lisa:

Were they, they kept calling it an incident?

0:36:22.3

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And she spoke to, like she had no idea about Bruce and they spoke to enough of it but –

0:36:31.5

Angus:

Sorry, what did they mean they had no idea about Bruce?

0:36:35.0

Brittany:

I guess, it's hard to remember all of it but she just mentioned that she didn't think he was capable or didn't think he would be, this was a trusted advisor of hers and that she just didn't think that –

0:36:50.9

Angus:

She'd known him for years.

0:36:51.5

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. She'd worked with him for years. And yeah, so she was just expressing her shock. But it was pretty much, yeah, when the Brereton report stuff came out. It was the same verbatim language, that I felt physically ill, I was, it was like on repeat. I heard it and I was like oh my gosh, I've heard that before. It's the same language. Yeah, so yeah.

0:37:14.1

Angus:

So how long did that meeting go for?

0:37:17.8

Brittany:

About 45 minutes. I remember people in the office thought it was weird. Why would the Minister be meeting with the Chief of Staff with the lowly media assistant? It was weird. All of it was weird. Everyone knew something weird was going on but no-one was talking about why it was weird.

0:37:32.8

Angus:

So by this stage, within this week and a bit, had there been the guest appearances by Kunkel and these kind of things happening in the office?

0:37:44.5

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:37:44.5

Angus:

So everyone must be doing –

0:37:46.3

Brittany:

Everyone knew something weird was happening.

0:37:47.3

Angus:

Something's going on.

0:37:48.2

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:37:49.2

Lisa:

And it all seemed to centre around you.

0:37:53.1

Brittany:

Yeah but –

0:37:54.3

David:

She came right after that.

0:37:54.3

Brittany:

It was always, there was always this thing around plausible deniability. I remember one of the other senior staffers, his name was Doug Read, he was the guy from Lachie Martin who was one of our senior Defence Industry Policy Advisors. He was like are you ok? Something, everything seems, something's wrong. And I was like do you want me to tell you, and he was like no, actually no, I don't want to. Because there's this idea of I don't think I want to know. Plausible deniability. That's not –

0:38:20.1

Angus:

Wow, what a culture. Jesus.

0:38:24.0

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:38:25.7

Angus:

You know that's not normal. Just want to point that out.

0:38:27.7

Brittany:

I know, because for me this has been the scope of my working professional experience. So when I relay it to other people and they're like this is weird and I'm ok, that's true I guess.

0:38:27.7

David:

You were gaslit. You were – it's an abusive relationship.

0:38:39.3

Brittany:

I know that now.

0:38:39.3

Lisa:

There's a reason it's called the Canberra bubble.

0:38:42.3

David:

It seems to protect Morrison quite well.

0:38:45.6

Lisa:

And many, many others.

0:38:48.6

Angus:

Yeah but it's, just so you know, it's so far from normal, the way that that office works. So when you're talking to us, the reason we're, like we're shocked on a lot of levels. My wife has worked in HR for a long time and she works at a big bank and a bunch of her friends have gone to another bank and we saw them over Christmas and they're like, Anna you don't understand, you're trapped in this nightmare scenario. Everyone at this bank is normal. They treat you like normal people. This is the kind of thing.

0:39:25.9

Angus:

Normal people don't react like that. Your friends wouldn't react like that. Your people at work should act like, with human empathy. So it's really weird and that's the culture which is normalised.

0:39:41.5

Brittany:
Yeah.

0:39:41.5

Angus:
So these two normals are very, very strange.

0:39:46.2

Brittany:
Yeah. Just wait till we get to estimates, it gets weirder.

0:39:50.2

Lisa:
And the problem with those sorts of cultures, and they exist in certain industries, is that you get so deeply entrenched in the culture that you, as Angus was saying, you think that's normal. It's not. But you also think you wouldn't be able to exist outside of that bubble because this is your normal. This is what your normal looks like.

0:40:16.2

Brittany:
Yeah.

0:40:17.4

Lisa:
And that's what keeps people silent.

0:40:20.8

Brittany:
Yep. Trust me I've had, my dad's teed me up a really great waitressing job after all of this.

0:40:28.6

David:
She keeps saying that. I'm going to be the world's best waitress.

0:40:31.4

Angus:
Yeah, Noah. So the, when did you go to Perth?

0:40:38.3

Brittany:
Probably a month after, six weeks after all this happened.

0:40:42.5

Angus:
OK, so how many discussions were there that took place, I haven't finished the Linda discussion. Was the idea of coming to Perth brought up as an option or what was the purpose of Linda finding out in this meeting? What was she trying to ascertain?

0:41:02.6

Brittany:
I think she was just trying to evoke that she was aware, she was broadly apologetic and I think it was like a box tick moment, saying that I guess we said that if you wanted to, the police was feasible. I

think honestly it felt like it was a, it was like a, they had to tick certain boxes so that they can say they had that meeting.

0:41:02.6

Angus:

What was she apologising for?

0:41:30.8

Brittany:

That it happened inside of her office I think. I think it was her team and there was a level of responsibility and so she was apologising for the fact that this happened within her team, within the confines of people that she knew, this had happened. And that was what the apology was speaking to I guess.

0:41:47.1

Angus:

Do you know if she'd been in touch –

0:41:48.9

Brittany:

With Bruce?

0:41:49.0

Angus:

With Bruce.

0:41:50.2

Brittany:

I think they're still friends on Facebook or Instagram. I remember looking that year after or every once in a while infrequently, I'd – but once again, he knows everyone in the building a lot more than I do, so he is still friends with most people I work with today. Everyone knows him. So, he's still a presence.

0:42:10.0

David:

His name gets brought up to you all the time.

0:42:11.2

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, everyone knows him. He was one of their rising stars. That's why everyone thought it was weird that he just disappeared but they still loved him.

0:42:17.3

Lisa:

So if that's the case, have you ever heard back from anybody what story he's spun about the reason why this rising start never went any further?

0:42:27.1

Brittany:

No, I don't know. And yeah, I have no idea which iteration of the story he put out or why he told people he left. I don't know. Yeah, I never heard anything back.

0:42:40.2

Angus:

So, what you were saying before about the, you could be paid out -

0:42:49.2

Brittany:

Yes, with Fiona that was.

0:42:50.3

Angus:

Or you could go to Perth. This is a meeting post the Fiona and Linda meeting?

0:42:54.8

Brittany:

Yeah, so that was the last and only interaction I had with Linda directly addressing what had happened. We never spoke about it again. We avoided the topic. She never brought it up to me and she kind of, as much as possible, tried to distance herself from me. But Fiona was very much like ok, you can go home or you can go to WA, but I need to know inside the next two weeks because I've got to do all the organisation. And she was about to go off to be in the central headquarters of the Liberal Party.

0:43:19.8

Angus:

Which is where?

0:43:20.6

Brittany:

It was in Brisbane that year, yeah. So she was leaving. So she needed to know and I changed my mind two or three times. I was like ok fine, I just want to go home, I need to be with my family. And then I was like I really want to have a job and so I flip-flopped and she was getting quite annoyed that I was flip-flopping on this. Because I think, I don't know, for me I felt like I was choosing between do I have a future in this industry or did I just want to pack up and go home? And so I was flip-flopping and yeah. And so she was getting quite short and then in the end I just said I'd go to WA and that was it.

0:43:56.1

Angus:

Was there pressure to do one or the other?

0:43:59.2

Brittany:

No, but there was pressure to make a decision. She wanted to know and yeah, like she was really quite short and sharp about it. She just needed an answer.

0:44:07.9

Angus:

Did you get a feeling that, because I know you did when you initially went into that first meeting, that you thought you were going to be sacked. And then it's a bad look having, sorry understatement here, it's a spectacularly appalling look to have an assault happen in your work premises with your senior advisor being the perpetrator, but it's an even, you know, add insult to injury, it's a really bad look to sack the victim. Did you get a feeling that they would prefer if you just left?

0:44:47.2

Brittany:

Definitely. 100%. They definitely wanted me just to leave. But there was also that sort of, I don't know, there was that sort of fear built into it that this was the Liberal Party machine that can just destroy you into dust anyway. It didn't matter my story. I'm still very cognisant of that.

0:45:09.3

David:

Oh yeah. She has said to me numerous times, my career is over, I'm not, I can't even get a government relations job now. The reason she's staying so long is that she's worried about my job because she's scared that I'll lose my job because I'm, she's terrified. And she knows they're coming after her and she know, but I've said to her, you don't have to do this and she, ultimately she just wants to speak and be heard and have others hopefully come forward. But yeah, she cognisant of the fact that her –

0:45:37.8

Brittany:

Yeah I'm not naïve. Yeah, it's just been like my career and this is over. So yeah, I'll be moving back home after this and –

0:45:47.7

David:

We're downsizing into a small place so we can fly back and forth. It's destroying our life but it's destroying her life being in it.

0:45:54.5

Lisa:

Yeah.

0:45:54.5

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:45:54.5

David:

So, she chooses a career or she chooses no career but hopefully a sense of rebuilding herself after this.

0:46:03.8

Lisa:

But you didn't do this. This happened to you. You had no control whatsoever about this.

0:46:12.0

Brittany:

Yeah, I understand. I am not naïve to the fact I'll forever be tied to this story and it's not about me broadly, it's pretty much always going to be about the party and it will be about Linda and it will be about, and that's fine, but it's just hard to reconcile personally that you're the least interesting part of your story.

0:46:30.5

Angus:

But you're calling out the culture.

0:46:32.4

Brittany:
Yep.

0:46:33.8

Angus:

Which is not just the Liberal Party, it's a Parliament House culture which is, you're ultimately making it, taking steps forward to making it a safe place. Which, for God's sake, it's not just miners and builders who have to worry about workplace safety, everyone has to. And it's not a safe place.

0:46:57.6

David:

She turned to me, I don't know if you mind me saying this, I didn't know I was this selfless.

0:47:03.4

Brittany:

That was [0:47:04.8].

0:47:08.5

Lisa:

No, but it is that thing of when you realise how it can so easily destroy someone's life in just somebody else taking a decision against you, just continually living with that is, and you've obviously come to this decision, is actually the lesser of the two options that you've got at hand.

0:47:34.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:47:35.4

Lisa:

This is, by deciding to speak, I said it to you on the phone the other day, you're doing something quite magnificent for other women. So, it changes the culture there and it desperately needs changing. I'll say it again, it's a sick culture.

0:47:53.6

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:47:53.6

Lisa:

It's about fear, it's about intimidation, it's sexist, it's, everything is implied, everything's in secret and that's, everything seems to operate in dark shadows, because the minute you shine a torch on any of it, it's as ugly as sin.

0:48:12.3

David:

That's why Britt was saying to me, she goes I get one shot at this and it needs to be done right because my career's going to be over after this happens. If it's just a footnote, yeah I've ruined my career for nothing.

0:48:25.2

Brittany:

Yep.

0:48:26.4

Angus:

Sorry, before I get to Perth and things, did you have any other conversations with people outside of your direct department? Like Kunkel and was it Finkelstein or someone gave you a call at some point as well?

0:48:42.8

Brittany:

Yeah, but that happened afterwards. So, there was, I lump it into these three individual events. There was the actual incident itself, there was the election monitoring I guess and then it was Senate estimates.

0:48:56.5

Angus:

Ok, let's go into election monitoring.

0:48:58.5

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:49:00.4

David:

There's just one quickly you should mention, is that the police that she spoke to, the female police officers, were obviously so worried she was being coerced that they escalated it to their boss, who rang Britt during the campaign. So –

0:49:11.4

Brittany:

So they asked me if I was being coerced or pressured to not speak about it.

0:49:15.4

Angus:

That's why the boss rang you?

0:49:16.2

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:49:16.2

Angus:

Because of that boss' concerns.

0:49:19.9

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. So I had never spoken to this gentleman before but he worked at SACAT or the external thing and he was concerned and that's why he called me during the election, just to check in to see if I was ok.

0:49:32.5

Angus:

Wow.

0:49:32.5

Lisa:
So, he suspected that –

0:49:33.9
Brittany:
So he knew. He's a smart guy. I'd never met him myself but yeah.

0:49:38.4
Lisa:
So when he said are you being coerced, what did you say?

0:49:40.8
Brittany:
I don't think I had much of an answer. I just said I'm working at the moment, thank you for your concern and that was kind of it.

0:49:51.3
Angus:
So, never been to Perth before?

0:49:56.8
Brittany:
Yeah, so I was there for six weeks. They put me up in a hotel. I was there. It was hell.

0:50:05.0
Lisa:
So, did they say why Perth?

0:50:09.8
Brittany:
My Minister lives in WA.

0:50:12.1
Lisa:
Right, ok. But it's also a great way to isolate you.

0:50:14.6
Brittany:
Yeah, yeah, I had no friends and no family there. I didn't know anyone there beyond that team of people. So they were like, throughout my key processing period, it was, I was just stuck with them. And yeah, I was very isolated. And Linda Reynolds didn't want a bar of me, she didn't want to be near me.

0:50:32.9
Angus:
And so, what sort of work were you doing?

0:50:34.5
Brittany:
Just like media releases and every time you get a quote about a little grants program, I'd wrist up the quote.

0:50:40.5

Angus:
For these three seats?

0:50:42.1
Brittany:
Yep, yep. So Hasluck, Canning and Swan.

0:50:44.7
Angus:
So who were the –

0:50:46.8
Brittany:
Candidates?

0:50:47.5
Angus:
Yeah, the candidates there.

0:50:47.1
Brittany:
Steve Irons. Canning was, scary eyes, scary eyes, scary eyes. Hasting. And Ken Wyatt.

0:51:00.8
David:
During the election campaign Britt told me that when she arrived at dinner for Linda's birthday, there was only one seat available next to Linda and Linda was not happy.

0:51:08.4
Brittany:
That was her birthday, yeah.

0:51:09.9
Angus:
Is that in the campaign?

0:51:10.6
Brittany:
Yeah, it was during the campaign, yeah. So that was in WA.

0:51:13.8
Lisa:
So even at her own birthday, no-one wanted to sit next to her?

0:51:18.7
Brittany:
Yeah.

0:51:19.3
David:
Except for you. Maybe deep down you know.

0:51:18.7

Brittany:

Oh I didn't either. She was not stoked to be sitting next to me.

0:51:29.0

David:

I just thought that was interesting.

0:51:34.6

Angus:

Did everyone think they were going to lose in Perth?

0:51:38.2

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. We all thought we were going to lose the election. There was very few among us who thought we would win and so it was just kind of this last stint. Yeah.

0:51:50.8

Angus:

Did the decision to go to Perth, did you regret that once you were there? Thinking I could be at home on the Gold Coast on the same pay?

0:52:02.0

Brittany:

No, because I knew there'd be no promise of another job. I think as soon as, so the idea was I had to latch on to any sort of position that I could in the party because they would never re-hire me again. I could hang on, they'd have to fire me then and they'd have to find cause, because I was a very good employee.

0:52:21.2

David:

She does my job for me. She's very good.

0:52:23.2

Brittany:

But if I left, they would never hire me again. So I was just hanging on, just to see how long I'd last essentially.

0:52:31.1

David:

[0:52:31.1] get a job in opposition.

0:52:33.0

Brittany:

Yeah, kind of. I don't know. I don't know. I pay my own bills. This is my entire career at this point. I thought this was my only option. I don't know. I don't know why I thought it was my only option but I did and so I just, I thought I'd just hang on for dear life.

0:52:48.9

Angus:

And so just days before the election, there's that Ken Wyatt story of Latika Bourke's.

0:52:48.9

Lisa:

Oh just remind me of that.

0:52:57.2

Angus:

So it was the bullying stuff, wasn't it?

0:52:58.5

Brittany:

So it was the Chief of Staff had a very weird relationship with Minister Wyatt. They were very possessive, very intensely bonded in some way or another, I don't know what, not my business. But she was in, she'd berate staff, she'd yell at them, she'd throw things at them, she was, and there was five of them who came up against her and lodged formal complaints during the election campaign.

0:53:22.2

Brittany:

And I just remember the commentary in the office, particularly by Linda at the time, I just remembered it because I was texting a friend about how much I was annoyed by it, that it was disgraceful that people would do this during an election, that it was horrible. If they had an issue, they could have raised it internally and I was just sitting there like hi, really?

0:53:45.9

David:

Salt in your office.

0:53:45.9

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. And I remember, and that's always the language that comes up. The same thing about Rochelle, because I was in Michaelia Cash's office and Rochelle used to work there. The exact same language is used about Rochelle and I was just sitting there like are you kidding? It was the same sort of thing about, you know, these women weren't good at their job or they just couldn't hack it and they should have just left and it was that same sort of thing.

0:54:09.3

Lisa:

Such a cliché.

0:54:10.0

Brittany:

Yeah, it was infuriating. And so every time I heard it, it was like this sort of re-traumatising thing about every time one of those stories came up. And they'd have weird people check in infrequently.

0:54:21.1

Angus:

And you could only ever raise an issue with your superiors. You can't go around to HR because there isn't –

0:54:28.4

David:

If you go to the Finance Department.

0:54:30.4

Brittany:

Department of Finance.

0:54:31.2

David:

But they have no jurisdiction, so they can say –

0:54:32.5

Brittany:

So they can't do anything but Department of Finance is run by Mathias Cormann, who is both of my bosses' boss in the Senate.

0:54:43.4

Lisa:

It's all designed to protect itself, isn't it?

0:54:46.3

Brittany:

Who would I talk to? My only outlet theoretically was the media and for me that was death at the time. So –

0:54:53.2

David:

And you were a baby staffer.

0:54:53.9

Lisa:

So basically, it basically allows bad behaviour to go unchecked.

0:54:57.6

Brittany:

Oh 100%.

0:54:59.8

Lisa:

Which is why there's always affairs going on.

0:55:02.5

Brittany:

Yes.

0:55:02.5

Lisa:

Within.

0:55:03.5

Brittany:

Well who would you talk to?

0:55:04.9

Lisa:

Yeah.

0:55:05.5

David:

Come down to Canberra. Wife's home. Have an affair. Go back home to my family.

0:55:11.3

Lisa:

It's like Jeffrey Epstein. Everyone's got something on everyone else, so no-one talks.

0:55:17.7

Angus:

Ok, so the miracle election.

0:55:22.1

Brittany:

We're all shocked.

0:55:23.3

Angus:

All hail the saviour, which was clearly Bill Shorten.

0:55:31.8

Lisa:

Yes.

0:55:33.7

David:

The Trojan horse. I think it was Bob Hawke who reminded us that Bill Shorten was no Bob Hawke.

0:55:38.9

Brittany:

[0:55:38.9] actually crying the day that Bob Hawke died, thinking they thought, no they thought it was going to tip it the other way.

0:55:45.1

David:

They reminded people what he wasn't.

0:55:45.8

Brittany:

People were in mourning. They weren't sad that he died, they were in mourning that they thought this would tip it in the other favour because we were starting to get momentum at that point and they were like fucking you died at the wrong time.

0:55:54.5

David:

Fuck you Bob.

0:55:55.9

Brittany:

What is wrong with you people?

0:55:58.2

Angus:

So you come back to Canberra, go through the interview process?

0:56:03.3

Brittany:

Yeah. I knew Linda and her husband wouldn't keep me on, so I immediately, as soon as I got back to Canberra, I was canvassing other offices. I was talking to every single person that I knew and I was trying to leverage that good will. And so in the end, I got three job offers. I got one with Cash, I got one with Cormann and I got one with Stuart Robert.

0:56:22.4

Brittany:

And I knew, I'd heard rumours that Cormann was going to leave, so I wanted a career, so I was like ok, goodbye Cormann. Stuart Robert, he's just Stuart Robert.

0:56:33.7

Angus:

He's the Stuart Robert of Stuart Robert.

0:56:36.9

David:

A bit like a Labrador.

0:56:39.9

Brittany:

And so it was like ok, I don't want to be his media advisor, it's a nightmare. And so I figured Cash was probably the best out of the three options.

0:56:51.3

Lisa:

You weren't really handed a great selection were you?

0:56:56.9

Brittany:

I didn't know what to do. I was like whatever, I'll just do what I can.

0:57:00.7

Lisa:

I tell you what, waitressing would have looked very attractive to me at that point. I admire your tenacity.

0:57:06.9

Brittany:

I know, I know. I just wanted a job.

0:57:07.6

David:

This is where it, you'll say it. This is where it sounds like they tried to push her out. This is where this Star Chamber came into it and it's –

0:57:15.2

Angus:

Yeah, what is that?

0:57:16.3

Brittany:

So Star Chamber is like this independent process where all potential ministerial advisors have to be approved.

0:57:24.8

Angus:

Right, by TMO?

0:57:25.9

Brittany:

No above that. So there's this gentleman named Tony Nutt and he's like the Liberal Party head honcho and he's not even attached to the ministerial branch. He's just the head of the Liberal Party. So it's Tony Nutt, he's the big, all hail. Fiona Brown is also on Star Chamber.

0:57:41.8

Angus:

What?

0:57:41.8

Brittany:

Because she's been around forever. She's been around since the Howard era, she worked for [0:57:45.4]. She's been, she was in Pots and Prayers, she's a person, she's a terrifying individual. Fiona's on Star Chamber. But we don't know everyone who's on Star Chamber. I know there's someone from the Prime Minister's office as well, beyond Fiona, who is on that chamber. But they pretty much, they get everyone's resumes in and propose roles and they get to decide in a closed system who gets hired and fired.

0:58:09.0

Brittany:

So, that's what Rochelle tried to get back in. So Rochelle from the Four Corners story, she applied for not even a ministerial position, a lower position, and was rejected from Star Chamber. So they pretty much make the decisions.

0:58:24.2

Angus:

And they don't have to give a reason why?

0:58:25.3

Brittany:

No.

0:58:25.3

Angus:

You can't ring up and go hello, can you tell me how I can improve next time?

0:58:25.3

David:

It's not a credit report.

0:58:31.0

Brittany:

No, no, not at all. They don't have to disclose anything. And so, I had these three offers and they were competing on length of salary and wages and I was starting to get to negotiate wages, quite excited, I was going to get paid quite well. And then it went through Star Chamber and my Chief of

Staff had to call me in, my new one, and was like I'm really sorry, I don't know what's happened, I'm really embarrassed about this, but our agreed upon wage has been rejected by Star Chamber, this is what they've offered you. And they offered me a lower ranking, a lower title and \$20,000 off my salary.

0:59:03.8

Angus:

Sorry, the salary you'd agreed to?

0:59:05.2

Brittany:

Yeah. The salary I'd agreed to with my Chief of Staff.

0:59:07.6

Angus:

Yeah.

0:59:08.8

Brittany:

And it was, I wasn't shocked by it because I kind of anticipated that there would be issues with the party, given everything that had happened, so I just kind of took it.

0:59:22.6

David:

And do you think they wanted you to quit?

0:59:24.5

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:59:26.3

David:

She was recently promoted in Cash's office, well put forward for a promotion as a, you're paid as an admin/ media assistant at the moment.

0:59:33.9

Brittany:

Yeah, still.

0:59:35.0

David:

And so they put her senior media advisor, put her forward for a promotion as an advisor because she's doing all the work of an advisor. In the staff list, she's high up on the list as the person to go to and she's knocked back again just recently.

0:59:48.5

Lisa:

And again, not given a reason.

0:59:49.6

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. And these are people who obviously don't know the situation, so they're putting me forward for promotions and like this doesn't make sense. And then obviously it keeps getting knocked back by the internal powers that be.

1:00:00.7

Angus:

Can I ask, I mean –

1:00:01.8

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, of course.

1:00:01.8

Angus:

I know with each contract it's, each contract is for the length of whatever it is. This is starting a new one in a new office. You may have negotiated something with the Chief of Staff, it has to be approved.

1:00:14.4

Brittany:

Yep.

1:00:15.1

Angus:

When that, but you were saying that because you had three offices that you could work with, you were able to go on ok, a bit more, a bit more. When they offered you that \$20,000 less than what was agreed upon, was that the same, more or less than what you were on previously with Reynolds' office?

1:00:15.1

Brittany:

I think it was still more than what I was on in Reynolds' office but it was like significantly less. And just title wise, they'd demoted me down as well and so it was meant to be an advisor, they put me down as an assistant advisor and they knocked off 20 grand as well. But he said to compromise for that, he would make sure I got to do lots of travel with Cash and that was sort of how he.

1:00:56.8

David:

And he didn't know at this point.

1:00:57.9

Brittany:

No, he had no idea. He was just confused. He was like I don't know what happened. He was very apologetic.

1:01:04.2

Angus:

Right, ok. So you've said yes to the gig with Cash?

1:01:10.3

Brittany:

Yeah. I just wanted to get out of Reynolds' office and I figured if I got a new office, maybe it would go away.

1:01:16.7

Lisa:

What's the relationship between Reynolds and Cash like?

1:01:19.7

Brittany:

Ok. They're both from WA, so they've got that shared sort of State pride type of thing, but Cash didn't know until Senate estimates what had happened to me. So Cash hired me without knowing the incident.

1:01:34.4

Lisa:

And she wasn't told?

1:01:36.1

Brittany:

She wasn't told, no. It was kept really hush-hush. There was a very limited number of people who knew. The Prime Minister's office. It was some people in my office. My dad kind of knew and there was probably, for a really long time there was about twelve people that knew. They kept it really close.

1:01:55.6

Lisa:

Right. So when did Cash find out?

1:01:58.6

Brittany:

So this is the Third Act of the story. So, it happened in about September was it?

1:02:06.0

Lisa:

Just gone?

1:02:06.8

Brittany:

No, in 2019. So this is all a while ago. Or was it?

1:02:11.6

David:

Oh no, they [1:02:11.6] and then September it was the mid-winter ball. You had to hang out with, the mid-winter ball.

1:02:20.0

Brittany:

October. Yeah it was October then. And they got an enquiry, so into Reynolds' office there was an enquiry about an alleged incident that happened between two staffers and it came from The Canberra Times. And I didn't see the enquiry myself but Linda Reynolds called my Chief of Staff and Michaelia Cash's office and she informed him what had happened.

1:02:43.9

Brittany:

So she told him about the assault. She also told him that there was an enquiry and that she wanted to speak, or they needed to speak with me. So that was the first time my current office knew or found out what had happened to me. And so Dale, my Chief of Staff, called me in. He was very apologetic. He was very like, obviously this is quite intense information, he'd never heard of this before.

1:03:07.7

Angus:

And he got this directly from Linda Reynolds?

1:03:09.4

Brittany:

Yes, she had called him.

1:03:11.7

Angus:

Sorry, The Canberra Times enquiry, they've called, because they've got a tip-off saying that something's happened in Linda Reynolds' office?

1:03:25.4

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. So, and they went directly to Linda Reynolds' office with this enquiry. I don't think they called, I think they may have sent an email. I'm sure that it's probably in an email somewhere. And yeah, and at that point it was escalated to Minister Reynolds and then Minister Reynolds has then gone to my Chief of Staff.

1:03:41.2

Angus:

Ok, so he's then called you in.

1:03:43.1

Brittany:

Yep.

1:03:44.5

Angus:

And what's that discussion?

1:03:47.6

Brittany:

He was quite upset. He was obviously quite concerned. He is one of the nicer people in Parliament House, so I think he was quite upset.

1:03:54.4

Angus:

Like a human you mean?

1:03:55.0

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, I know. He had a lot of feelings.

1:03:59.8

David:

He'd be one of the nicer ones in Parliament. It's a low bar.

1:04:01.3

Brittany:

Yeah, he was really nice and was like someone's coming up from Minister Reynolds' office to speak with you, would you like me there? And I said yes please, I need anyone, please bring everyone.

1:04:12.6

Angus:

A normal thing to say. Would you like some support?

1:04:14.9

David:

Sensitive information being passed around on the phone without her consent [1:04:17.9].

1:04:18.8

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:04:20.9

David:

She finds out that her boss knows about that.

1:04:22.8

Lisa:

Yeah, what was the purpose?

1:04:24.2

Brittany:

Of telling my Chief of Staff?

1:04:25.2

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:04:25.2

Brittany:

I don't know why she told my Chief of Staff. I guess because –

1:04:32.7

David:

You've got a grenade in your office.

1:04:34.0

Brittany:

No, no, no. I don't know.

1:04:37.7

Lisa:

I'm wondering is it –

1:04:37.7

Angus:

Is it that?

1:04:38.8

Lisa:

Because I can't think of any plausible reason that something that happened to you in a completely separate incident in another department is anyone's business, other than if you decide that you want to tell them about it.

1:04:52.2

Brittany:

It's the team, it's the Liberal team. We're all a weird gross family and so everything's everyone's information.

1:04:58.1

Lisa:

So the answer is there's no reason.

1:04:59.5

Brittany:

There's no reason, no.

1:05:00.9

Lisa:

Your privacy was completely breached in that situation.

1:05:03.5

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. So my new office had no idea and then suddenly they were very much made aware of the ins and outs of exactly what had happened to me.

1:05:10.9

David:

That's currently the [1:05:11.8]. The privacy.

1:05:14.9

Lisa:

The privacy being breached.

1:05:15.6

David:

Well it was very sensitive information just being handed out without your consent.

1:05:19.2

Lisa:

And CCTV footage of you being available to everyone but you and the police. The two people who should have access to it were denied access.

1:05:30.3

Brittany:

Yeah. It's all odd. I don't know what to say at this point.

1:05:35.7

Lisa:

Yeah, that's one way of putting it.

1:05:37.1

Angus:

Do you have any idea who tipped off The Canberra Times?

1:05:40.2

Brittany:

No, but I've wanted to know for the longest period of time. Once again, they try to keep me out of my own situation as much as possible, so they brought in this lady who worked in Minister Reynolds' office, not when I was there but afterwards, once she was promoted to Minister of Defence, and she spoke with me and she told me about, my Chief of Staff was with me.

1:06:02.0

Brittany:

She said there was a media enquiry that came in. It also went into the AFP. She said that they knew about the rough time of when the assault had happened and they knew it was between two staffers in Minister Reynolds' office. She didn't disclose who had, who specifically, which journalist, and she didn't disclose any other sort of particulars in terms of who would have tipped them off. They had no idea.

1:06:28.8

Brittany:

But they were sort of, she was trying to ascertain whether or not I had told anyone. And that was pretty much why they were sitting down with me. They were letting me a) know that this had come up and b) was it me?

1:06:43.2

Lisa:

So, they're trying to ascertain whether or no you've taken your own personal private information about your history and what happened to you, and you're being asked have you told anyone?

1:06:55.7

Brittany:

Yeah. And that was –

1:06:58.1

Lisa:

Your personal business, when they have clearly shared that business freely.

1:07:05.4

Brittany:

Yeah, and that was –

1:07:08.5

Lisa:

There's a bit of hypocrisy going on there.

1:07:10.5

David:

I like how angry you're getting.

1:07:12.4

Lisa:
It's unbelievable.

1:07:14.6

Brittany:

I don't know. You just sort of, you're in that mind space where you're just sort of weirdly accepting. I don't know what's happened. Anyway, so you just, you're like no I didn't tell anyone, I'm so sorry ok, I apologise. I don't know what I'm sorry for but something.

1:07:27.7

Lisa:

Oh they're good, aren't they?

1:07:27.7

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:07:28.9

Lisa:

They really, the way they play mind games is exceptional.

1:07:32.8

Brittany:

Yeah. Once again, you're working, during sitting weeks you start at 6.30 and you're not leaving until the senate rises at 10.00 at night. You're with these people 24/7, on weekends, you're, it's like this weird little culty vibe. I don't know, I can't quite –

1:07:45.9

David:

As you've learned, you're being paid very well for it.

1:07:45.9

Lisa:

No, I think you've actually explained it.

1:07:51.7

Brittany:

Yeah and so, and then Daniel obviously, my Chief of Staff, said to me would you like me to tell Cash or would you like to? I was like, I think that's a you conversation.

1:08:02.1

Lisa:

But hang on, why did that even get on the table as an option? Why did Michaelia Cash have to be told?

1:08:07.7

Brittany:

Because she is attached to my name as well. So if it turned into a media story, if it did blow up, not only is she connected to Linda Reynolds, Brittany Higgins is also connected to Michaelia Cash.

1:08:18.7

David:

She's on all the media releases.

1:08:20.7

Brittany:

And therefore, on the basis that I'm connected to Michaelia Cash, she had to be made aware of the situation.

1:08:26.7

David:

Their biggest fear is the media release Brittany Higgins on the release. She's tied to cash through –

1:08:33.8

Brittany:

Yeah, and so that's why Cash became aware.

1:08:39.5

Lisa:

So the answer to that question of how do you want her to find out, what was your answer?

1:08:44.8

Brittany:

I said I didn't want to go through the details again with another person, so I said you can tell her. I'll come in afterwards if she needs me to, but I don't, I didn't want to have to go through it again or talk about it.

1:08:44.8

Lisa:

How detailed was the information that he had?

1:08:59.8

Brittany:

I don't know specifically what Linda Reynolds told him beyond it was an assault. He knew that. I don't know if he knew about the check-in times or that. I assume not. I assume he just found out there was an assault and I assume –

1:09:14.4

Lisa:

Because you know what the problem is?

1:09:17.1

Angus:

Which bit?

1:09:17.1

Lisa:

Of the many problems, that information has ceased to be your story.

1:09:26.1

Brittany:

No, I know.

1:09:26.1

Lisa:

It's become Canberra's version. You could have suddenly become a party girl who likes to get drunk, she sleeps around.

1:09:36.1

David:

That's what they'll spin.

1:09:36.8

Lisa:

So you know, she's a bit of a trouble maker, can't really keep a lid on this one, don't know if she's really worth the trouble.

1:09:45.1

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah.

1:09:50.2

Lisa:

I'm not saying that's what happened.

1:09:51.3

Brittany:

No, no, no.

1:09:51.3

Lisa:

But it's that lack of control that this machine had decided it was their story to tell, not yours.

1:10:03.2

Brittany:

No, exactly.

1:10:04.5

David:

Who knows what Linda said to Daniel. Oh she slept with a staffer on my couch, keep an eye on, that kind.

1:10:09.4

Lisa:

Classic Chinese whispers.

1:10:11.6

David:

Yeah. By the time it got to Cash, who knows what the version was.

1:10:14.2

Lisa:

So when were you made aware that Cash had been told?

1:10:18.5

Brittany:

Probably an hour following that meeting with the woman from Linda Reynolds' office. Cash came in, she gave me a big cuddle, she was actually surprisingly human about it, and she told me to take the

rest of the day off, so I did. Yeah. So collectively, throughout this period, I think I'd maybe taken four days off to process, I don't know.

1:10:43.5

David:

It seems fine.

1:10:43.5

Lisa:

Did she, did she ask you any questions about what counselling you'd had since, what help you'd got, whether or not you were still talking to the police?

1:10:56.2

Brittany:

No, no. I think they were pretty much concerned moreso about they thought the story was going to come out the next day. They were moreso just like keep your head down. If you need support immediately in terms of if the story comes out tomorrow, we're here for you, but it was just keep your head down, don't answer your phone.

1:11:13.8

Lisa:

Do you think there's any chance that the police might have leaked it because they were frustrated at what was going on in Canberra?

1:11:19.5

Brittany:

That was the allegation that was discussed at the time in the meeting with my Chief of Staff and the lady from Reynolds' office. It was such a tight circle, no-one but the Liberal Party knew and they figured the only people who could have leaked the story was the AFP.

1:11:32.9

Lisa:

Because it had to be somebody that had an interest in it.

1:11:36.3

Brittany:

Yeah, so it was either, what they mentally deduced was it was either ministerial security or the AFP, because no-one in the party would have done it. There's just no way.

1:11:46.3

David:

And someone without media experience, because they went to The Canberra Times. You don't go to —

1:11:52.8

Brittany:

So they would have been a local, someone local who lived in Canberra who thought that was the paper to go to.

1:11:58.8

Angus:

And ultimately nothing came from The Canberra Times in publication?

1:12:01.5

Brittany:

No. So pretty much the thing was they would say was don't worry we'll squash the story and you'll be fine.

1:12:09.0

Lisa:

Who said that? Cash?

1:12:10.0

Brittany:

My Chief of Staff and it never came out. And so the next week it was Senate estimates, and so they were freaked out that this was going to come out during Senate estimates, because my boss reps the Home Affairs portfolio in the Senate, which has responsibility for the AFP. So we had the new Canberra AFP Commissioner, we would have Cash and then theoretically they were nervous that this story would come out in front of these two people who had responsibility for it on TV, on Senate estimates. They were nervous about it.

1:12:44.7

Angus:

Ok, just run me through that. So what does repping mean?

1:12:47.8

Brittany:

So, repping means, ok so in the House of Reps and in the Senate, they have the split responsibility of portfolios. So for example, Peter Dutton has Home Affairs, that's his portfolio in the House of Reps, but they also need someone in the government to be the representation of that portfolio in the Senate as well. So my boss has that responsibility.

1:13:10.4

Angus:

Ok, so Cash has that responsibility in the Senate?

1:13:12.4

Brittany:

Yes. And during this process called Senate estimates, it means they're under –

1:13:20.1

David:

Oath.

1:13:20.1

Brittany:

Under oath, under duty and are responsible for speak on the record to specific issues. So you can't lie in Senate estimates or else you lose your job.

1:13:27.2

Angus:

OK. So just as a matter of course, this is what usually happens at this point in whatever it is, October, there's a Senate estimates sitting for however many days and AFP Commissioner, it's his turn.

1:13:40.4

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:13:41.0

Angus:

And does that mean Cash, because she has responsibility, is sitting on the –

1:13:47.5

Brittany:

On that panel, speaking about it.

1:13:48.5

Angus:

On that panel. Hang on, I don't know what I'm talking about when I say panel. So there's the Senators asking the question and then there's the AFP –

1:13:57.2

David:

Like a witness.

1:13:58.1

Angus:

She's like a witness with the AFP Commissioner.

1:13:59.8

Brittany:

Yep. So she would be sitting there.

1:14:02.8

Angus:

With Dutton as well?

1:14:03.7

Brittany:

No, because Dutton's not in the Senate.

1:14:06.8

Angus:

So Senate estimates is only the Senator, got it.

1:14:09.6

David:

And for your reference, we'll get down to this later, but the reason we've chosen the timeline we've had is because it's a sitting week when we want the story to come out. A break and then –

1:14:16.9

Lisa:

That's what we wanted to know. Why March?

1:14:17.8

David:

And then the Senate goes to [1:14:18.9] in March and that's when I'm going to talk to, I've got a friend in Labour, Katie Gallagher on the Labour side, who will probe and continue it going. So sitting week, story comes out, they have to answer questions at question time, it's a mess for them. March,

Senate estimates. Hopefully we can try and get the footage, that sort of stuff, for Britt's clarity, and then he's going to call an election in whenever he calls it.

1:14:45.0

Brittany:
Soon.

1:14:46.9

David:
That's why Britt's picked that timeline.

1:14:49.5

Angus:
Ok.

1:14:50.4

David:
That is not relevant now.

1:14:51.8

Angus:
Ok, so run us through, so she's got responsibility for the AFP and what, there's a feeling that someone's going to ask the AFP Commissioner about this?

1:15:00.9

Brittany:
So I got a call from Rebecca, one of the officers, on that weekend saying just letting you know, the new AFP Commissioner has put your information and what had happened to you in his estimates pack. And your estimates pack is like this big briefing document that has all of the particulars of questions you think that the Senators are going to ask you.

1:15:22.0

Brittany:
And because it's like a televised event, everyone in department land in Canberra really cares about Senate estimates. They think it's like the be and end all, that everyone cares about it, no-one cares.

1:15:31.8

Lisa:
I tell you what, as a journalist, I love Senate estimates.

1:15:34.4

Brittany:
Really? Oh thank you.

1:15:35.6

Lisa:
It's the best theatre.

1:15:37.4

Brittany:
Thank you. Mike Pezzullo is a star. Honestly, he is a talent.

1:15:42.5

David:
Oh you like him?

1:15:42.5
Brittany:
I love Pezzullo honestly, he loves it so much.

1:15:45.3
Angus:
Oh Pezzullo, yeah.

1:15:46.9
Brittany:
Yeah.

1:15:47.6
Angus:
He's pretty entertaining.

1:15:48.3
Brittany:
He is so funny.

1:15:49.2
Angus:
I liked his rebuffing of, I can't remember who it was, but it as an arrogant kind of Carter own and it was the whole kind of stuff, and I'm just like this is a great performance.

1:16:00.6
David:
[1:16:00.6] that's TV.

1:16:02.7
Brittany:
It's kind of like Joe Astron's court case. Did you read that transcript? Oh my God.

1:16:05.7
Angus:
Fantastic.

1:16:06.8
Brittany:
It's so funny.

1:16:06.8
Lisa:
Has that started up again?

1:16:08.9
Angus:
This week.

1:16:10.4

Lisa:
Oh it's back on this week.

1:16:10.8
David:
He's a fan.

1:16:12.7
Angus:
Stupid is as stupid does. Yes!

1:16:16.1
Brittany:
I don't care if she's got a doctorate in, it's great.

1:16:19.7
Angus:
She's losing other people's money, come on. So sorry, ok so, so everyone's got this, who's got this briefing then? Who's now got your private information?

1:16:28.9
Brittany:
The AFP Commissioner, and so this Rebecca lady who handled my case so well and I trusted her so much, I still do, she was the lady from the AFP and the Sexual Assault Unit who looked after me and was willing to take this further. She was the one who called me just to say emotionally prepared, this is in our estimates pack. They thought it was going to come out during Senate estimates.

1:16:53.6
Lisa:
And she's the one that elevated it to her boss?

1:16:55.3
Brittany:
Yep.

1:16:56.6
Lisa:
And the boss was the one that made the phone call?

1:16:58.7
Brittany:
Yeah. So she, I really like her but obviously I got that call and I was like well, I've got to tell the boss, and so I had to make an awkward Sunday call, just being like hey, I got a weird phone call from an officer saying that this –

1:17:13.3
David:
It was up to you to media advise yourself.

1:17:16.4
Lisa:
Yeah.

1:17:16.4

Brittany:

So weird. Yeah, so I had to call my Chief of Staff and say hey, the story might be coming out I guess. Just got a call from a police officer saying that it may be in their Senate estimates pack. I just wanted to let you know.

1:17:29.7

Angus:

So, that's not necessarily something that that AFP Commissioner is bringing to the table, it's just in case he gets asked?

1:17:36.0

Brittany:

They just thought for some reason –

1:17:39.1

Lisa:

Because of The Canberra Times story.

1:17:40.5

Brittany:

Yeah and I, to this day I don't know how they squashed it, I don't know why it wasn't run, I don't know which journalist had it. And I've tried to find this Christie person since and talk to her and every time I do, they rebuff any contact I can have with her. They don't want me near her.

1:17:57.1

David:

The weird Christie thing. So, I found out through my Defence contact that Christie had, was still in Defence. He gave me her, we only had her first name, so he did some digging confidentially, called me on Signal and goes this is her full name. I'm going to send you a text saying leave me alone. And then I told Britt and so they basically said she doesn't work in Defence anymore, she's out. A week ago –

1:18:23.7

Brittany:

Yeah, she was in Parliament House. I was like what the hell is happening?

1:18:25.5

David:

A week ago she was in the building in Parliament House and so people have just, throughout the course, have just tried to stop Britt from finding out anything that happened to her. The Senate estimates thing, the weird part of that is the Cash repping. She –

1:18:43.6

Brittany:

Oh yeah. Because my boss would be repping on that day, they decided to do a shuffle so that she wouldn't have to be the repping minister. So sometimes you can request leave and they can get someone else to take your place. So that morning, Cash and I went to Master Builders in ACT, which is like this training school, and we did a little photo op day with some apprentices instead of fronting Senate estimates because they didn't want me in the building, they didn't want Cash in the building, so we went and we took photos of tradies. It's on our Instagram. I took a date stamp. So yeah, we didn't front Senate estimates.

1:19:19.7

Angus:
And who did front Senate estimates?

1:19:19.4

Brittany:
[Rhys Payne 1:19:22.1] did.

1:19:23.2

Angus:
Right.

1:19:23.2

Brittany:
So they just swapped her out for that morning session of the AFP.

1:19:29.0

David:
So if it came out, she wasn't on camera.

1:19:30.3

Angus:
Yeah, yeah.

1:19:33.0

David:
I don't know how you're going to tell the story.

1:19:34.5

Brittany:
It's not easy and complicated and confusing.

1:19:38.3

Angus:
Yeah, amazing. Let's go the Master Builders.

1:19:42.5

Brittany:
Yeah, yeah, I know.

1:19:44.1

David:
And I said to Britt, did you and Cash talk about why you were there? No we just quietly, awkwardly just did photos and pretended that we were –

1:19:52.3

Brittany:
Deep interested –

1:19:52.3

David:
Deeply interested in the tradies.

1:20:02.7

Angus:

It's not really a story, right?

1:20:03.9

Lisa:

Do we need more of Cash? Cash's involvement?

1:20:08.7

Angus:

So from the start of this parliamentary session onwards, you've been working for Cash? Have you stayed in the same position?

1:20:21.0

Brittany:

Yep.

1:20:21.0

Angus:

Have people come and go, come and gone in the last year and a half or so?

1:20:25.0

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah, it's quite a volatile working environment. People are in and out all the time.

1:20:29.9

Angus:

Yeah, ok. How, has there been, so that's what September/ October 2019 when this breaking staff was holy crap, let's go to the Master Builders.

1:20:43.1

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:20:43.9

Angus:

Is it now just a process of checking in that various people do?

1:20:53.4

Brittany:

Yeah. Now it's just every time a relevant story in terms of female in the Liberal Party or sexual assault and staffers, anything like that that comes up, there's just that process of whether it's Cash, whether it's my Chief of Staff, whether it's someone like [name 1:21:08.4], there'll just be that check in process. Whenever there's a story, they're like you doing ok?

1:21:14.1

David:

Or Cash is really nice to you and –

1:21:16.2

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:21:16.9

David:

And I guess you don't know whether it's –

1:21:19.3

Brittany:

No, and the issue is because staffers move around so much, I to this day don't know who in PMO knows or who in Reynolds' office knows and so there's this pervasive stress every time you go into the building that you just don't know which people know what. And all these people are friends with my perpetrator and so it's just like a very stressful environment of just not knowing who knows what, who was involved in what and you know, you just.

1:21:50.6

Brittany:

It's so hard because you dedicate so much of your time and your life and you just, you just really don't know who was a part of it and who knows what. It's just such weird information for people to have about you and on you and it's just stressful.

1:22:08.1

Angus:

Ok, so going back to, you went to Perth, you came back, there was still a police investigation going on.

1:22:19.9

Brittany:

Yeah, so they needed me to have a formal statement if they wanted to proceed and at that point I wanted a job. I was scared, I was told I'd lose my job if I proceeded, so I didn't.

1:22:33.5

Lisa:

You were told you'd lose your job if you proceeded with the police charges?

1:22:41.9

Brittany:

Not explicitly, but it was clear. It was, it was you go home, you take a payout, you can proceed with this. We're not going to stop you, but you just don't have a job.

1:22:51.1

Lisa:

And so what were the options if you didn't press charges?

1:22:57.0

Brittany:

You would have a job.

1:22:57.0

Angus:

It's a terrific excuse because everyone's jobs are up.

1:23:09.1

Brittany:

It's so easy to sack you.

1:23:09.1

Angus:

It's great timing. So you can no, didn't, it's a meritocracy. You didn't get the job because of performance.

1:23:16.4

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:23:17.2

Angus:

We don't need to prove that.

1:23:18.7

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:23:20.5

Angus:

Or you can have a job.

1:23:21.9

David:

And when you asked what would happen if I took time off and came back, did she just sort of look of into the distance or what was the?

1:23:28.2

Brittany:

No, she kind of like trailed off and was kind of like well you don't come back. And I remember that and that was the moment it became very clear the implications. Because for a while I was dancing around the edges. I'm like ok, how do I go forward with this because if this exact same incident had happened in a park away from work with someone I didn't know, of course I'd go to the police. Obviously.

1:23:46.3

Brittany:

If I knew this person's name, of course I would want him charged. It was because he was a senior, it was because he was in the party, it was because he was involved and I didn't have any recourse.

1:23:46.3

Lisa:

Yeah. They just cut you off at the knees every time they could.

1:24:01.2

David:

They wouldn't let you see your own, they wouldn't let you see what had happened. They wouldn't let you see the vision. They wouldn't let you –

1:24:07.4

Lisa:

So when was the last time you asked to see the CCTV?

1:24:09.3

Brittany:

Probably around, during the election period but infrequently, even like recently when I asked to speak to Christie, I said that I was having stress around my job. I have to deal with mostly political enquiries obviously and I was saying every time I see an enquiry that comes up from The Canberra Times, I find it quite stressful because I don't know which journalist theoretically might have this story on me and I was finding it really hard to interact with them. And I asked if I could have more details on that and they just never got back to me.

1:24:39.3

Angus:

Who is Christie?

1:24:46.1

Brittany:

Sorry, she's the woman from Minister Reynolds' office who came up after the fact before Senate estimates.

1:24:52.2

Angus:

Ok, so in April 2019, oh no sorry. So I'm just looking at this email that you sent to Sarah Harlan in the AFP saying, so this is April 13 you decided not to proceed any further, not right for my personal decision with workplace demands. So that's just, that's a month before the election right?

1:25:25.5

Brittany:

Yeah, we're in campaign mode.

1:25:26.6

Angus:

And you were in Perth at that stage, when you sent that?

1:25:28.9

Brittany:

I was flying over, it was within a week of me being there, yep.

1:25:32.7

Angus:

So I'm just wondering, did you get, why did you feel you needed to put it in an email?

1:25:47.4

Brittany:

To the officer?

1:25:47.4

Angus:

Yeah.

1:25:49.5

Brittany:

Because they were agitated around the sides and my job was already really precarious. I needed to put a stop to it so that I could continue to have employment. It was as simple as that. Yeah. Them probing Parliament House for security vision. I was already getting pretty volatile, people were quite angry or they were like are you going home or are you staying? And there was this atmosphere of

just general, it was getting really precarious and difficult and so I just needed them to stop. I just wanted the world to return to normal and so I just kind of wanted to try and keep my job essentially and that was all I was kind of focused on. So I sent the email to try and make them stop poking before the election.

1:26:34.1

Angus:

Was there any further correspondence, any phone calls after that?

1:26:37.4

Brittany:

No, they were pretty good until, and then I got that call from the random senior gentleman during the election when I was in WA and that was the only other sort of contact I had with them following that.

1:26:49.5

Angus:

Yeah, so you'd already said no I don't want to proceed?

1:26:53.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:26:54.8

Angus:

And presumably our guess is that it's Sarah or Rebecca has gone to this guy and said look I think she's stopping because –

1:27:04.4

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:27:05.3

Angus:

I mean it would be easy to send an email than have a difficult conversation to say I want it to stop. Had you had any conversations with them to say look I've got to choose between this going to Perth or going ahead, anything like that?

1:27:23.3

Brittany:

We never really spoke specifically about Liberal Party pressure. We spoke about the difficulties of parliamentary procedure and how hard it was already getting for them to get footage, but they didn't know, they knew my job was obviously going to make this more of an issue but I didn't speak specifically about I'm getting pressured from my boss. They kind of read between the lines. Yeah, sorry does that answer your question?

1:27:49.3

Angus:

No, no, that's fine.

1:27:52.0

Lisa:

So with what you sent through the other day with the timeline and everything, there was the thing there about one sexual assault was reported in Canberra. So at this stage, that still sits on the public record with no detail.

1:28:06.9

Brittany:
Yeah.

1:28:06.9

David:
It's just part of the ACT crime stats. Because we were of the belief that, did this, was her, because she did an interview with police and so I was thinking is that an off the record interview. I've got a friend who –

1:28:17.9

Lisa:
Because there's no charges have ever –

1:28:20.2

David:
No. So I've got a friend who works for the SACAT team and he was saying no, they would have a file on Britt, that vision of the dock, not the parliament dock obviously because that would be probably an admin error and deleted. But all the vision in Britt's police file is there. So it looks like this was listed as a sexual assault at Capitol Hill. And there's only been one, the place is awful, but there's only been one listed.

1:28:42.8

Brittany:
Yeah, so 2014 to now, they break it down into quadrants of every year, and there's only ever been one and it was during my period of time.

1:28:51.3

Lisa:
Right ok.

1:28:52.5

Brittany:
So yeah, I deduce that it's mine but you never know, it's kind of a weird place.

1:29:01.0

Lisa:
Yep.

1:29:02.4

Angus:
Ok, why don't we have some lunch?

1:29:04.6

Lisa:
Yeah, that's what I'm thinking as well.

1:29:07.2

Brittany:

That sounds great.

1:29:07.9

David:

What is your timeline? Do you have –

1:29:07.9

Lisa:

No, we're fine.

1:29:13.9

David:

So not much of a story, right?

1:29:16.0

Angus:

No. Yeah, we'll pass on it. No, that's a joke.

1:29:22.5 INTERVIEW ENDS

0:38:19.6 AUDIO ENDS

Copy of first meeting 3**0:00:00.0 AUDIO BEGINS****0:00:01.6 INTERVIEW BEGINS/CONTINUES**

0:00:01.6

Lisa:

But if you've lined up all your ducks, if you know you want your future to not be in Canberra.

0:00:07.8

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, that's fine, I think that's -

0:00:08.8

Lisa:

Then,

0:00:09.6

David:

Yeah, it's Canberra.

0:00:10.1

Lisa:

They kind of can't touch you.

0:00:11.8

Brittany:

I know, I know.

0:00:12.7

Lisa:

Because you're taking back ownership of your story and what happened to you to make sure that it can't happen to others. And it changes the culture as much as is possible. Because you're also riding on the back of the *Four Corners* story, as you know.

0:00:27.3

Brittany:

Yep, yep.

0:00:27.9

David:

Exactly.

0:00:28.5

Lisa:

And that makes it so much more powerful than if it was standing out there on its own. It's like the Me Too movement, it's because women linked arms and rushed forward that all of a sudden, the individual stories no longer got shouted down. It became, well, this is everywhere.

0:00:45.5

David:

Yeah. It's like, Scott Morrison, who, three weeks ago was seen handing out an award to Grace Tame. Like, it's just -

0:00:50.7

Angus:

Yeah.

0:00:51.2

David:

It all looks bad for them. But obviously, I don't know, if we mention the Sam aspect now or talk about it later.

0:00:58.1

Lisa:

Oh, yeah. Because -

0:00:58.9

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:00:59.4

Lisa:

- I was going to say, if you've got Sam -

0:01:01.6

Brittany:

Yeah, she's great.

0:01:02.1

Lisa:

- covering off on the Sunday morning, so she can go out of the blocks first, we're okay with that. But then we would run our story that night. So, you've got that one twenty-four hour cycle where the rest of the media kind of go, well, this is where all the detail is.

0:01:19.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:01:19.3

David:

And I only want, I don't know what you want. I only want Britt to have to do one TV thing. So, and I know that Sam's going, could we get some -

0:01:25.6

Brittany:

Yeah, I know she wants grabs and I'm, I don't want to give grabs, honestly. I don't want to give grabs of, like, a Google conference call. I'd rather just do it, two separate entities.

0:01:33.3

Lisa:

Yeah, don't -

0:01:33.7

David:

But your story, you can give her a snippet and then she can cross-promote you and you can cross-promote her. I don't know what the, the way that would work.

0:01:40.3

Lisa:

That's the way we would do it.

0:01:41.7

David:

Yeah.

0:01:41.8

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:01:42.0

Angus:

Yeah. Is that the way you would prefer?

0:01:43.4

David:

I think so, yeah.

0:01:43.9

Brittany:

Hundred per cent. I don't want everyone thinking -

0:01:44.6

Angus:

As long as you two, as long as we're not, because Sam's the best person to tell the big details of how fucked this is, and then back it up on *The Project*. But we just want to have both of you on board with each other and not feel like we're, I don't know, pissing someone off.

0:01:58.6

Lisa:

We're competing.

0:02:00.4

Angus:

- and, yeah. Does she know that you're speaking to us as well?

0:02:01.8

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, a hundred per cent.

0:02:02.4

Angus:

Okay, great.

0:02:04.0

Brittany:

We've been [0:02:04.4].

0:02:04.9

Angus:

So, I don't know if you guys can talk about the, we'll give you the really good grab that explains it, and then you embed that in your story and then you -

0:02:12.8

Lisa:

Craig will have that conversation -

0:02:14.5

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:02:14.9

Lisa:

- because Sam loves coming on *The Project*, it's really good for her. So, she's going to want to make sure that our relationship is still solid. And also, you don't want kind of dinky -

0:02:28.7

Brittany:

Different.

0:02:29.3

Lisa:

- grabs -

0:02:30.8

Brittany:

Following me until I die.

0:02:32.9

Lisa:

For a news, yeah, for a News.com story. You want the fully, well-produced *Project* grabs. Be the only thing that they -

0:02:39.6

Brittany:

I don't even care about the looks. I just don't want -

0:02:41.1

David:

No, that's, if it's out there forever.

0:02:42.1

Brittany:

- too much, I just need to, I want to touch it once and then just move forward.

0:02:47.7

Lisa:

Yeah. But also, I mean, we'll make sure that, if it is going to be out there forever, you may as well have some hair and makeup and look nice.

0:02:59.1

David:

She's thought about, like -

0:02:59.7

Brittany:

No, we're leaving it.

0:03:01.1

Lisa:

Okay. Anyway, we'll, leave that with me.

0:03:06.2

Brittany:

Thank you.

0:03:06.7

Lisa:

Leave that as my, one of my things that I'll make sure is looked after.

0:03:10.7

Angus:

So, would you like us to get in contact with Sam, for Craig to get in contact with Sam?

0:03:15.1

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:03:15.4

Lisa:

Yeah, I think Craig should make the phone call.

0:03:16.9

David:

Yeah.

0:03:17.5

Angus:

Do they know each other?

0:03:18.5

Lisa:

Oh yeah. Craig employs her.

0:03:20.7

Angus:
Okay.

0:03:21.1

Lisa:
Has for a long time.

0:03:22.4

Angus:
He helped her through that shit Sky period.

0:03:24.0

Lisa:
Yeah.

0:03:27.4

Brittany:
Sam's lovely.

0:03:28.3

Angus:
Sam's the nicest person on the planet.

0:03:29.9

David:
She took Britt over, she made her dinner, and -

0:03:31.9

Brittany:
Yeah, no. She's the only, one of the Press Co journalists that have actually been nice.

0:03:36.2

Angus:
Yeah, she's always been nice to me, too. When I, got the job at Sky, she fully said, oh, get the - she signed a book to me, get the fuck out of Sky. She is not a fan of Sky.

0:03:50.1

Lisa:
She's part of a very long queue.

0:03:52.5

Angus:
Except for Petey.

0:03:55.4

Lisa:
Don't know. Hopefully, he can sort of survive there as his own entity.

0:04:00.9

Angus:

He's got, oh, he's got your old EP as his boss.

0:04:03.2

Lisa:

Mark Howard.

0:04:04.1

Angus:

Who's an interesting guy.

0:04:06.9

Lisa:

Well, talk about -

0:04:07.8

Angus:

I'll read it in your book.

0:04:09.5

Lisa:

Well, no, because I'm not going to go into him.

0:04:11.9

Angus:

Oh, okay.

0:04:14.1

Lisa:

I'll only mention him in passing.

0:04:15.7

Angus:

Yeah, he's yelled at me a few times, he's a good guy.

0:04:18.1

Lisa:

He's got a shocking reputation for affairs.

0:04:20.0

Angus:

Get that fucking super off the screen.

0:04:23.5

Lisa:

[0:04:23.5]

0:04:23.5

Angus:

He's one of those guys, yeah.

0:04:26.5

Lisa:
No, he's a naughty boy.

0:04:29.1
Angus:
Oh, shocking in the media.

0:04:30.9
Lisa:
Yep.

0:04:32.5
David:
I was telling -

0:04:32.9
Lisa:
He has a history.

0:04:33.2
David:
- Lisa about our date with Pine.

0:04:35.3
Brittany:
Oh, yeah.

0:04:36.1
David:
How he hit on me the whole time and how -

0:04:37.4
Brittany:
No, he was just a little handsy. Welcome to being a girl.

0:04:42.2
David:
We left and Britt goes, it's just nice to go to something and have no-one show any interest in me.

0:04:46.9
Brittany:
He had zero interest in anything that was going on here. I had a great time. It's the best politician's drinks I've ever had.

0:04:59.1
Lisa:
So, what have we not covered off, Angus? The lawyers are going to want to know.

0:05:04.3
Angus:
Yeah, okay.

0:05:07.9

Lisa:

Oh, your phone.

0:05:08.7

Brittany:

Yes.

0:05:09.0

Lisa:

Tell us the story of your phone line.

0:05:10.5

Angus:

Oh, yeah.

0:05:11.3

Brittany:

Look, I don't know, to be honest. I think it's, I don't know.

0:05:13.9

Lisa:

You took it to Apple, didn't you?

0:05:16.1

Brittany:

I'm taking it to Vodafone. I missed my appointment, and I couldn't get in.

0:05:19.1

Lisa:

Oh, okay.

0:05:20.4

Brittany:

But, yeah, so, pretty much, I was screenshotting all these old screenshots of conversations I'd had with Linda Reynolds and Michaelia Cash and all these ones I was putting together for my document. And I was talking to David about it that night, and we were having these longform discussions and it was after I'd, this was my mistake.

0:05:36.9

Brittany:

I had asked many people, and Minister Reynolds' number, office, for Christine Pearson's number. I didn't give them a reason why, but I just said, oh, I just need to follow up something with her, do you mind passing along her details. And they all said, no, she doesn't work here anymore, no, we don't have her number, and I was like, okay, whatever.

0:05:56.6

Brittany:

And then, that night, my phone completely died and I was like, that's fine, I've got another device, I'll just back it up. And all my WhatsApps were gone, all my conversations were gone, all my photos

were gone. And I've swapped devices half a dozen times, it's quite normal, but yeah, it was completely wiped, which was weird.

0:06:14.7

Brittany:

But, yeah, obviously, I don't know anything. But it was just odd because, yeah.

0:06:21.5

Lisa:

So, the background was that was your phone.

0:06:23.7

Brittany:

That was my personal phone.

0:06:24.2

Lisa:

And at what point did someone in whatever office you were in say, we need to put some software on your phone?

0:06:32.0

Brittany:

That happens. All ministerial staffers have, we all have, like, to get our authenticators and get all of our secure emails on. Because technically, every email we send, unless we declassify it, is now classified. So, most of our correspondence now, even just standard stuff, is classified, which is crazy. They've just upped our classification system tenfold in the past couple of years.

0:06:52.0

Angus:

Ten per cent.

0:06:54.1

Brittany:

Yeah. So, any, even innocuous random emails are now classified.

0:06:57.1

Angus:

No wonder you use WhatsApp.

0:06:58.5

Brittany:

Yep. So, all of our devices, whether it's personal or otherwise, if we need to have connection to our emails, have software on it that's loaded up by the government. And yeah, so, they've got autonomy and, yeah, they have access to all aspects of my devices, they have everything. Yeah, and it's normal.

0:07:20.1

Lisa:

So, you were doing all the captures, what, two weeks ago?

0:07:24.8

Brittany:

Probably in the past few weeks, I've started sort of just, yeah, I was just taking old screenshots of conversations via WhatsApp that I'd been having, and -

0:07:34.7

Lisa:

So, you had them in your photos?

0:07:36.7

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, I had them in my photos.

0:07:38.2

Angus:

So, iPhotos? Is it a -

0:07:39.4

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. And then they're not in my iCloud, like it's -

0:07:42.1

Angus:

That's what I was going to ask, yeah.

0:07:43.1

Brittany:

Yeah, no. Because we restored it all, though, because Dave was like, don't freak out, Brittany, it's fine, they'll all be in your -

0:07:46.4

David:

Yeah, I was relaxed. I thought, oh, we're just being paranoid. Because this is like at three am we were having this panic. I was like, it's fine.

0:07:53.1

Lisa:

It'll be in your iCloud.

0:07:53.8

David:

Yeah, and then, we used my phone and we used, we got onto iCloud at three am and -

0:07:59.8

Brittany:

Yeah, they were all gone.

0:08:00.2

David:

- it wasn't there. And then I'm like, oh, was it just because you hadn't backed it up, is it just like a week backup process. But the WhatsApp got me, because you can usually, old text conversations, because I've done it, I did it in front of you. I downloaded WhatsApp again, deleted it, and all my old conversations were there.

0:08:13.9

Brittany:

And I've swapped devices so many times and I still have -

0:08:15.5

David:

But all, something, you're also missing, it's very, I don't know if they put a classification on that, certain things would be deleted if you had to, but you've done it before.

0:08:23.6

Brittany:

I don't know. I don't know. They can't, [0:08:25.6].

0:08:25.3

David:

So, we can't really prove that that one is -

0:08:28.1

Brittany:

No.

0:08:28.2

David:

It's just a weird element to this.

0:08:30.0

Angus:

Yeah, so, the -

0:08:30.6

David:

Hence the hotel room and the coming to Sydney and not meeting in Canberra sort of stuff.

0:08:32.8

Lisa:

Yeah, sure.

0:08:34.1

Angus:

Yeah. But really, the authenticator stuff really should only just cover the emails.

0:08:39.9

Brittany:

You'd think so, but, who knows.

0:08:42.3

Angus:

Yeah.

0:08:42.7

Brittany:
Yeah.

0:08:44.1
Angus:
Yeah, okay.

0:08:46.8
Brittany:
But, yeah, [0:08:47.8] I can't corroborate that yet. I've, once I take my device and see what's happened, that'll be interesting. But we'll see.

0:08:57.6
Angus:
So, which would happen, what, when you, after you resign?

0:09:02.3
Brittany:
Oh, no, I've got like a, I was, the actual, original handset that it was on, it's still dead. I can't even charge it. [0:09:07.4]

0:09:07.2
Angus:
Oh, sorry, sorry, sorry.

0:09:08.4
Brittany:
Yeah.

0:09:08.9
Lisa:
Have you told the office that everything's been deleted off your phone?

0:09:13.2
Brittany:
No. No. Because I feel like -

0:09:17.5
Angus:
A double agent?

0:09:18.4
Brittany:
No, no. Not like that. It's just, no. There's this weird, I feel like I just, if I bring up things then they'll get reviewed.

0:09:29.0
Lisa:
That there'll be eyes on you.

0:09:30.2

Brittany:

Yeah, I don't know. I don't know, I just don't feel comfortable talking to them about most things.

0:09:38.0

Lisa:

It's such a culture to make you paranoid, isn't it?

0:09:40.7

Brittany:

It's weird. It's not a healthy environment.

0:09:42.6

David:

Because if she's fired, let's say they found out this, then they fire her. It already discredits her, she's a disgruntled employee.

0:09:50.0

Lisa:

Yeah, course.

0:09:51.1

David:

So, if she leaves on good terms, and there's a cake, and we hit them with it surprisingly, they don't really have the -

0:09:57.8

Brittany:

Yeah, and -

0:09:58.2

David:

I'm sure there's a file on you somewhere in POA.

0:09:59.7

Lisa:

Yeah, but they won't have the same ammunition.

0:10:01.5

Brittany:

No. But I'm not pressing, I don't want money. I'm not going after them with a lawyer for anything. I don't want anything. I'm not fired, I'm not a disgruntled employee, I'm quitting.

0:10:11.8

Angus:

You're not going onto every channel.

0:10:13.3

Brittany:

No. I'm not gaining anything in this and I'm just trying to make sure I've dotted my is and crossed my ts in every way, where they can discredit me. Because I know they will, they'll find ways. But I'm

trying to just sort of make sure that everything's done the way where I'm not seen to be profiteering in any way, shape or form. Because I'm not.

0:10:36.4

Lisa:

What you're actually, well, you kind of are. Because you get your story back.

0:10:42.1

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:10:42.5

Lisa:

You get ownership of what happened to you.

0:10:44.5

Brittany:

It'd just be nice to talk to friends and have them understand why I've been such a freak for about a year and a half.

0:10:51.4

David:

You haven't been a freak, you've just been -

0:10:53.0

Brittany:

Stressed. Weird.

0:10:53.5

David:

You've been feeling like you're keeping their secret, when it's really yours.

0:10:56.7

Brittany:

Yeah, I know.

0:10:56.8

David:

And now you can tell whoever you want.

0:10:58.2

Brittany:

I know.

0:10:58.8

Lisa:

Yeah.

0:11:01.8

Angus:

Is your plan to go back to the police?

0:11:07.1

Brittany:

After all of this, hopefully after Senate estimates, maybe they can get something out of them. If they can get footage, if they can get logs, if they can get anything supplementary, I would go back to the police and do it. Because until then, it's just my word against his, and then, if it goes through to court proceedings, I'm not sure that the onus of proof, without a reasonable doubt, is on my side enough.

0:11:31.2

Brittany:

For it to be helpful. I think, if I lose a court case, it will just discredit everything I've said in the media and it'll make me look like a liar. So, I want something in Senate estimates to come out of this and then I need, just any, whether it's footage, whether it's the logs, anything that I can kind of use to back up my word more so than just my word.

0:11:52.3

Brittany:

Then absolutely, a hundred per cent I'd go hard. But until then, I just don't have -

0:11:58.9

David:

And you can't prosecute the Liberal Party and the only, it's the court of public opinion that can get them. You can't get them in court.

0:12:04.5

Brittany:

Yeah, I know. No. No, I'm not going to, I just, yeah.

0:12:09.6

Lisa:

So, is your end game here, apart from getting ownership of your story back and being in control of what's out there, is it to press charges against Bruce?

0:12:23.3

Brittany:

Ultimately, one day, if I can get enough stuff, absolutely, that'd be great.

0:12:26.9

Lisa:

Because at the moment, you can't do that, because you can't get access to any CCTV.

0:12:30.3

Brittany:

Exactly.

0:12:30.8

Lisa:

Basically -

0:12:31.1

Angus:

You can't be confident.

0:12:32.3

Brittany:

No.

0:12:33.0

Angus:

That you'll win.

0:12:34.3

Brittany:

Exactly. And -

0:12:34.8

David:

And then that would discredit everything else she says.

0:12:36.0

Brittany:

Yeah. And if I, yeah, exactly. And that's, I had that conversation with Sam as well, she was like, oh, that makes sense to me. But -

0:12:42.9

Lisa:

And are the police, so the reason the police want to keep going down that path, is because they can see a conviction? Because they've got to have an end game with this, otherwise -

0:12:53.3

Brittany:

Yeah, I think they've been, they're clearly quite annoyed by being stonewalled. I think, personally, for them, it's like a moral win, I guess, on the basis that, these parliamentarians thinking they can get away with anything. And so, they wanted to champion it on the basis that they really do want to kick in doors and interview ministers.

0:13:12.0

Brittany:

Like, they're absolutely, hands down, very interested in that concept. But yeah, but until, fundamentally, at the end of the day, it'll come down to my word against his. And if I don't have any corroborative evidence, whether it's the tapes, whether it's the logs, I don't, I think -

0:13:33.2

David:

He can just say, oh, we just had consensual sex.

0:13:35.2

Lisa:

Yeah.

0:13:36.5

David:

You've got a, let me, I'm sure you'll tell Lisa, you've got a photo of a bruise. But there was no rape kit or anything. There's nothing that we can kind of -

0:13:42.2

Brittany:

No.

0:13:46.1

Angus:

Is there any other people, because there's a fair number of people just on your list, who know. Do you think any of those people would be in the position, or want to go on the record?

0:14:03.1

Brittany:

Talk about it?

0:14:02.9

Angus:

Yeah.

Brittany:

I don't know. Pardon?

0:14:05.4

David:

Alex?

0:14:06.8

Brittany:

Like, my roommate and stuff would, but in terms of the people who were on this list. I mean, they're either, (a) employed by the government or (b) employed by the Department of Defence, or (c) employed by the police. And I think all of them are kind of gagged in one way or another. I mean, who can I, probably the people who speak, who aren't affiliated with people.

0:14:32.1

Angus:

Really narrows the list down.

0:14:34.6

Brittany:

Yeah, little bit. Who's not affiliated?

0:14:37.2

David:

He wouldn't -

0:14:39.4

Brittany:

Chris Paine.

0:14:39.6

David:
He's a dad, he's got daughters.

0:14:41.4
Brittany:
Maybe. Maybe. But he's still employed by someone in Defence at the moment.

0:14:46.5
David:
Yeah. Yeah, you're not allowed to, if you're in the public service, you're not allowed to talk about anything.

0:14:50.0
Brittany:
Well, yeah, and he's got like a security clearance. I don't think he'd lose that over me.

0:14:54.7
Angus:
What about -

0:14:56.3
Brittany:
So, it'd either be, I think the people who would maybe, potentially, would be Chris Paine. The other person would be either Karly Abbott, she's heard about the story from someone else. But she no longer works for the government. Ben Dillaway no longer works for the government.

0:15:13.7
Angus:
Sorry, who was the second person?

0:15:15.2
Brittany:
Karly Abbott.

0:15:16.2
Angus:
Oh there, right. So, sorry, Karly no longer works -

0:15:20.6
Brittany:
No, no, she's left now. And the person below that, Ben Dillaway. Full disclosure, I had a relationship with that person, I don't know if that matters.

0:15:31.2
Angus:
But both Karly and Ben -

0:15:33.5
Brittany:
No longer work for the government anymore.

0:15:34.8

Angus:

Okay. Do you know where they work?

0:15:36.5

Brittany:

One works for BHP as a media advisor, and the other one has a lobbying firm, or a consulting firm, or something.

0:15:46.1

Angus:

Okay.

0:15:47.6

Brittany:

And then, on the other side, my roommate's not listed on there, but she would speak to it. But once again, all these people have been employed by the government.

0:16:07.8

David:

Get old Brucey boy on the camera.

0:16:12.4

Lisa:

So, what's the actual Sunday in March that works for purposes?

0:16:19.4

David:

Do you have a calendar app?

0:16:20.4

Angus:

Yeah.

0:16:20.3

Lisa:

Mm-hm.

0:16:21.5

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:16:24.1

David:

So, it'd be the one, so we are trying to lock in, so my thing's that week, so we can, it'll be after that.

0:16:30.3

Brittany:

So, it'd be -

0:16:30.2

David:
It would be after that week. So, it'd be the -

0:16:31.8
Brittany:
Twenty-first.

0:16:32.3
David:
- twenty-first.

0:16:33.6
Lisa:
That's Feb?

0:16:34.6
Brittany:
Yep, it'd be the twenty-first of Feb.

0:16:35.1
David:
The twenty-first of Feb you could do that story, that's ahead of that sitting week. And the March is when estimates is.

0:16:39.7
Lisa:
Oh, right. So, we -

0:16:40.1
David:
So, I don't know if that's too soon for you.

0:16:42.0
Lisa:
Right, so, we're talking about, twenty-first. So, we're talking four weeks from last Sunday.

0:16:47.7
David:
The reason, yeah.

0:16:48.2
Brittany:
Yeah.

0:16:49.4
Lisa:
Okay.

0:16:50.9
David:

We'd do it sooner, but we're just trying to cement my income and have my company loan me a little bit.

0:16:55.9

Lisa:

Oh no, the timing's good. It'd be what works for you guys.

0:16:58.7

Angus:

So, twenty-first of Feb would be the ideal broadcast date.

0:17:03.9

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:17:04.5

Angus:

When – so, there's questions in that next week, and then what does the, that first sitting week in March, is that Senate estimates?

0:17:10.3

Brittany:

I think it's two weeks in, and I think it's mid-March is when Senate estimates is back.

0:17:14.8

Angus:

Okay. So, twenty-first or twenty-eighth, just as long as it's before Senate estimates?

0:17:21.5

Brittany:

It'd be good to get a question time in, I think.

0:17:23.5

Angus:

Ah, right.

0:17:24.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:17:24.6

David:

So, you want to do it on the sitting week. So, that Sunday ahead of the sitting week.

0:17:26.3

Brittany:

So, they're actually, they're all stuck in Parliament House with it.

0:17:30.1

Angus:

Got it. Okay. So, question time follows the twenty-first of Feb. Okay.

0:17:36.8

Brittany:
Yep.

0:17:37.7

Angus:
Do you have friendly MPs you know that could fire questions in question time?

0:17:43.5

Brittany:
We could find some.

0:17:43.9

Lisa:
Oh, certainly, Albo.

0:17:45.7

David:
Yeah. We just -

0:17:47.8

Lisa:
Albo's a bit of a dead duck at the moment, but anyway.

0:17:49.9

David:
Well, he's in a car crash, leave him alone, he got a lot coverage out of that.

0:17:52.0

Lisa:
Tanya Plibersek, definitely.

0:17:53.2

David:
Yeah.

0:17:54.9

Brittany:
I'm nervous about the day after. You know how, I don't know if you guys do it, but you back in, you get friendlies to kind of back in your story. I'm kind of nervous that I'm going to be like a little -

0:18:04.0

Angus:
There'll be no friendlies?

0:18:05.1

Brittany:
No. [0:18:06.5]

0:18:06.3

Angus:

Yeah, if, I mean, Julia Banks, can we get her on ABC Breakfast or something? Like, you need people backing it in.

0:18:10.4

Brittany:

I don't know.

0:18:12.3

Lisa:

Well, Julia Banks couldn't possibly tell the story of Linda Reynolds backing down because she -

0:18:16.5

David:

Part of your story.

0:18:17.2

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:18:17.6

Lisa:

Yeah. Well, she was off the record when I did that interview. Actually, I'll have to go back and watch that again. I'm trying to, I know we had a long conversation about it, and I'm trying to remember if it was off the record or not.

0:18:36.8

David:

Just change -

0:18:36.8

Angus:

Julie Bishop's got nothing to gain. Do you know Julie?

0:18:39.4

Lisa:

I know Julie well.

0:18:40.2

Angus:

Do you think she would speak to the culture in that place, the next day?

0:18:45.0

Lisa:

She's, I mean, the one frustrating thing about Julie is -

0:18:48.7

David:

The influences?

0:18:50.3

Lisa:
Well, there's that.

0:18:51.7

Angus:
The one frustrating thing?

0:18:51.7

Lisa:
Yeah, well, the biggest frustration that I have with Julie is that she had so many opportunities to speak out against the culture. And for one woman to, what was she, deputy to thirteen different Prime Ministers over the course of her time in Parliament.

0:19:07.7

David:
Always the loyal to, bridesmaid, never the bride.

0:19:09.0

Lisa:
The minute she was out of there, oh, it's really sexist. I tried to get her on the record with that so many times when she could've actually affected change, and she wouldn't.

0:19:20.4

David:
Because, or we need like a, I don't know, we get Grace Tame doing the media the next day. You need someone who's -

0:19:26.9

Lisa:
Yeah.

0:19:26.9

Brittany:
Yeah, I know.

0:19:28.2

David:
Because you want friendlies so that they don't saturate the airtime with Craig Kelly, oh, women just need to suck it up. You need, because they're going to -

0:19:35.3

Angus:
Yeah. Turnbull was the one, you know, when he was doing his book, came out and said it's like the nineteen eighties.

0:19:41.0

David:
Yeah.

0:19:41.9

Brittany:

He's already done *Four Corners*, though, and he'd want to make this his -

0:19:45.5

David:
His thing.

0:19:46.0

Angus:
He does hate Morrison. Does he hate him that much?

0:19:49.0

Lisa:
No, I don't, yeah, I think so. Malcolm, I know Malcolm well.

0:19:54.2

Angus:
Yeah.

0:19:55.5

Lisa:
I've known him since I was in magazines.

0:19:57.2

Angus:
Yeah, I know.

0:19:58.0

Lisa:
We go back a long way. Because he was Kerry Packer's -

0:20:02.5

Angus:
Lawyer?

0:20:03.2

Lisa:
Yeah, everything.

0:20:06.3

Angus:
Because, yeah, that's something that I do think, I mean, you've thought about it from a media side of things. You want some friendlies that can kind of keep it going. Sam's story will kick it off, your story will do it, and then, Mondays are dead. That's the thing.

0:20:15.6

Lisa:
I reckon Malcolm will talk, Julie Bishop, I don't know. How close is she to Michaelia Cash and Linda Reynolds? They're all Perth girls.

0:20:24.0

Brittany:

No, but they were never friends. I don't know why, but they never liked each other.

0:20:27.7

David:

Julie doesn't have any friends.

0:20:28.4

Brittany:

And Cash and Bishop never, no, I don't know. Julie was always different than them, they never, they were not friendly.

0:20:34.7

Lisa:

So, why did Linda go into bat for Julie when I did that tweet?

0:20:40.3

Brittany:

Who knows.

0:20:41.0

David:

Oh yeah, so, you know Britt was the one seeing, like, so -

0:20:44.5

Brittany:

Oh, I remember just being like, stumped, what is happening right now. It's like a very longform. I always really respected the fact that you never just screen capped and shared those conversations. Because they were very long and detailed and I was very panicked.

0:20:58.3

Lisa:

We could probably find them right now.

0:20:59.7

Angus:

PVO would've screen capped them.

0:21:01.6

Lisa:

Oh, yeah, PVO would've.

0:21:05.0

Brittany:

I just remember watching it being like, are you, what are you doing right now.

0:21:09.0

Lisa:

I'm a great believer in people's time will come. I'm incredibly salacious time -

0:21:13.2

David:

Is it Linda's time, please, god, let it be Linda's time.

0:21:14.9

Lisa:

Well, I think it might be.

0:21:18.4

Angus:

So, I don't forget to -

0:21:19.0

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, ask away.

0:21:21.0

Angus:

- ask this stuff later.

0:21:23.4

Brittany:

Yep.

0:21:24.5

David:

Just need to grab my phone.

0:21:25.9

Angus:

This is for both of you.

0:21:27.8

David:

Oh, okay.

0:21:27.4

Angus:

Sorry.

0:21:27.7

David:

No, that's okay.

0:21:29.9

Angus:

Are you still in contact with anyone like EAP or a psychologist or anything at the moment?

0:21:35.5

Brittany:

No, but that's, the next on my to-do list is sort of to get prepared. And broadly have enough Valium to last me a month when I bunker down in Bryon and hide afterwards.

0:21:46.3

Angus:

Yeah. But it's an exhausting thing to go through.

0:21:51.0

Brittany:

Yep.

0:21:51.7

Angus:

No matter what. And it's exhausting mentally and physically on both of you, feeling, being cloak and dagger around getting on planes and stuff like that. There is very much a feeling that, thank god you've got one another, but you're also burdening one another with the story.

0:22:13.6

Brittany:

Yeah, that's right.

0:22:12.8

Angus:

And one of the best parts about talking to a good psychologist, which you don't always get when you ring up the phone, is that that person's job is just there to listen to you. And you don't even have to tell them all the problems that, the reasons why. You can just get it off. So, mentally, it's a, and it's a really good way to prepare yourself to be able to do that stuff.

0:22:36.1

Angus:

So, I would kind of advise that it's a good thing to look after yourselves.

0:22:40.7

David:

We've got good friends, but I mean, ultimately, the cost is something. I mean, psychologists aren't cheap and we're kind of already having to downsize and split, we're going to be on one income. So, we're just kind of, I'm not trying to, I'm fine. I said to Britt, ask me in three months' time, but we're just trying to make sure she's okay. So -

0:23:00.0

Angus:

Look, you know that if you go to, it's a convoluted thing. But if you go to your GP, and you say, look, I've got a serious mental thing that I need to deal with, it's, I think I'm leading to depression, or whatever. You can get through it pretty easily, you'll get twelve sessions. You get twelve sessions that you can use within the calendar year.

0:23:25.9

Angus:

And they do the mental health check thing. So, I've got one, because I started this job and I felt a bit depressed, and they went, oh, it's fine. Just do this, and so, now I just go to, I go and see the psych once every four, five, six months and it's great. I can just blurt out shit and then I feel great and I don't need to go back again.

0:23:46.8

Angus:

But I just have this thing sort of ticking over, so that I've got these things. But for you, use all twelve, and then you can get another extension on top of that as well. So, it actually doesn't cost you, it's covered by Medicare. It's a great PBS blow-out.

0:24:00.9

David:

You're going to need someone.

0:24:01.8

Brittany:

Yeah, no, that's true. I just haven't had the time or the ability.

0:24:05.5

David:

And you don't want to let another person in the tent, I get it.

0:24:07.3

Brittany:

Yes.

0:24:08.5

Angus:

Yeah, yeah, exactly. But even at that stage, you don't even, you could just be talking about just the immediate last week and this week. You don't even have to go from the beginning, but to be able to unburden something with someone who is, for god's sake, not to do with your actual work. It is, like, if this had happened to you in a private capacity at a nightclub.

0:24:40.3

Angus:

And then you still had to go to work, at least those two things would be separated. But your whole world is around this now, and you're having to move up here to do a conversation that's separate to your whole world. It'd be more than reasonable for you to go and have a couple of days off just after having had to talk with Lisa and me about this, and get on a plane and going back and forth.

0:25:00.0

Angus:

Like, I'd be falling asleep at the table tomorrow morning at, you know. It's going to be like jetlag.

0:25:05.9

Brittany:

You'd be surprised. You just keep going.

0:25:08.2

David:

She's got pump up music.

0:25:10.6

Angus:

But you know, it's -

0:25:11.3

Brittany:

Yeah, no, no, I do, I'm not diminishing. Thank you.

0:25:13.4

Angus:

Yeah. So, use good friends, and good friends that they stick with you, you won't burn them out. But I'd strongly recommend getting something and if you need any help with that, then just ask and we can help as well.

0:25:31.5

Brittany:

Thank you.

0:25:32.5

Lisa:

And just be kind to yourself. And that's sometimes very hard, particularly as a woman, to do. Because we're often our own worst enemies because we're tough on ourselves before everybody else is tough on us as well. But make no mistake, the culture that you've been working in, has been all about suppressing all of the good angels.

0:25:55.6

Lisa:

You know, all of the natural, human emotions that you would have to the circumstances that you've been in. Everyone around you has been saying, no, no, no, we squash that down, that doesn't exist, we just try and, well, not try, we just carry on. Because that's what we do in this bubble.

0:26:10.9

David:

Even someone in Cash's office that knows, it's nice, the nice older woman, when the Rachelle Miller story came out on *Four Corners*, Britt was worried about it. And Regina goes, nice lady, goes, wow, she was always going to talk, you're not going to talk. Like, it's that kind of, just -

0:26:26.6

Lisa:

She said that to you?

0:26:27.4

Angus:

Wow.

0:26:27.9

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:26:28.0

Angus:

Constant repetition of -

0:26:30.0

Lisa:

Write that one down.

0:26:31.7

David:

Add that one to the list. It's just [0:26:34.2].

0:26:34.2

Angus:

She was always going to talk, you're not going to talk.

0:26:36.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:26:37.5

Lisa:

Wow.

0:26:38.3

Angus:

That constant -

0:26:39.3

Brittany:

[0:26:39.3], yeah.

0:26:40.3

Lisa:

Because I would like to talk about the *Four Corners* story and the reaction that that garnered.

0:26:45.9

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah, yeah, definitely.

0:26:47.4

Lisa:

And if anybody wants to feel fired up about zeroing in on Linda Reynolds, I just found our private messages.

0:26:53.7

Brittany:

Oh god.

0:26:54.2

Lisa:

Did you see our private exchange?

0:26:54.7

Brittany:

I did, I did, it was very scary.

0:26:57.9

Lisa:

So, I said, we, she went for me, publicly, and then I tried to come back reasonably, and then I thought, I'm not going to do this publicly. I'm trying to work out who this fucking woman is, I'd never heard of her. She's a nobody, I'd never heard of her.

0:27:13.2

Angus:

Oh, here's a big fan.

0:27:14.2

Lisa:

She is [0:27:14.8]. So, I thought, okay, I'm going to take this offline and do this privately. And I, this is on the twenty-third of February 2019. And I said, hi Linda, genuinely disappointed that after accusing me of something I didn't do, and me politely responding, that you haven't responded. Either defending your stance or apologising, I had hoped for better. Best regards, Lisa.

0:27:42.6

Lisa:

And then she came back and said, hi Lisa, now, after reading your response on Twitter, if you would like me to respond, I will. I did not read it or respond yesterday for what I hope you will agree is a valid reason. What? My priority yesterday was travelling from flood-devastated communities in Central Queensland to do private town hall meetings with small Victorian communities.

0:28:13.9

Lisa:

Around Wangaratta flattened by floods in December. I literally spent yesterday driving from Wodonga to Melbourne.

0:28:21.7

David:

What a hero.

0:28:22.2

Lisa:

Re the substance of the issue, the reason I was deeply disappointed by your comments was because I felt that you had three hundred and sixty-four other days to criticise the Liberal Party, without having a shot at the rest of us in a tweet about Julie's retirement. I felt she deserves so much better. That may not have been your intent, but that is how I perceived it.

0:28:42.7

Lisa:

This issue is a deeply personal one for me, as I've been publicly and privately fighting for gender reform -

0:28:48.4

David:

Oh my god.

0:28:49.0

Lisa:

- within the Liberal Party for over five years, after several years on gender reform in the army. This is actually gold for this.

0:28:57.7

Angus:

Yeah.

0:28:59.6

Lisa:

I would welcome the opportunity for a serious discussion with you on this privately. Gender reform in any organisation or profession is never easy, particularly so when it's done in the hothouse of politics. Kind regards, Linda. So, I wrote back. Dear Linda, I totally understand that you were doing your work as a politician yesterday.

0:29:23.7

Lisa:

As I, and most other hardworking Australians, were working at our jobs too. But you and/or your media team have been very active on Twitter since you had your go at me on Thursday evening. So, I find it very hard to believe that you didn't see or weren't informed of my immediate response. Or read, or been informed of the tweets from the many, many, many people who saw your comments -

0:29:48.3

Lisa:

- as biased and unnecessarily nasty towards me. Even from your own followers. And now, you want to do it again by suggesting that I criticise the Liberal party three hundred and sixty-five days a year. That's just cheap and uneducated. I've been a very vocal supporter of Julie's, please feel free to ask her about that significant support.

0:30:09.2

Lisa:

As it's been both public and private. If you would like to look at my tweet one more time with a clear, unbiased head, I am making the point that the Liberal Party needs great women to populate it so it's no longer seen as the party with the women problem. For democracy to work, we need strong parties, where both sexes are well represented.

0:30:28.6

Lisa:

Indeed, I can only presume it is for that very reason that you're working so hard to try and achieve gender reform in the party. Shot with her own petard, right there. So, if that is your passion, why would you take a swipe at me for desiring the same thing. You genuinely leave me confused, Linda. Best regards, Lisa.

0:30:49.4

David:

Do you remember that, do you?

0:30:51.1

Brittany:

I remember that line.

0:30:53.0

Angus:

So, what, I mean, this is obviously, oh, sorry, time's up.

0:30:55.6

Lisa:

Perfect time for the food.

0:30:57.0

Brittany:

Truly.

0:30:58.3

Lisa:

That was just the preshow entertainment.

[Interruption 0:31:00.2 - 0:31:38.6]

0:31:38.6

Lisa:

Goodness me, how prescient was this?

0:31:42.4

Angus:

Yeah.

0:31:42.7

Lisa:

That I've got that exchange.

0:31:45.4

Angus:

Yes, so that came out of -

0:31:47.3

David:

It smells good.

0:31:49.6

Angus:

- the twenty nineteen, so that was -

0:31:51.5

Lisa:

So, that was February twenty nineteen, so it was just before this. And it fits in with the Julia Banks stuff.

0:31:59.2

David:

Yeah. I guess, what's your, obviously, we're not stupid, we know that this sort of stuff's transactional. What are you getting out of it, what do you want out of it?

0:32:09.8

Lisa:

Champion for women who are being suppressed.

0:32:12.0

David:

And I assumed that, because I tried to show [0:32:14.9].

0:32:20.0

Lisa:

No, I'm always about exactly the same thing. The inequality that exists out there, whether it's white privilege, whether it's male domination, whether it's criminal activity that is suppressed. I'm a girl from the western suburbs of Sydney, I'll always be motivated by exactly the same thing. People who deserve to be heard, not being heard.

0:32:45.0

David:

And I'm a big believer in that because, [0:32:46.0] for a reason, it needs to be told. I just think, I don't know. I just think that it has to be told. When she told me, thank you, when she told me about it, I was just, I can't believe you've been keeping this to yourself. Like, she's only just -

0:33:02.0

Lisa:

Well, you can see why.

0:33:04.5

David:

Fear.

0:33:04.2

Lisa:

Yeah.

[Interruption 0:33:06.0 - 0:33:49.5]

0:33:49.5

Lisa:

David just asked me an important question that you probably, well, you should know the answer to. David said, what's in it for me, as a journalist. And my background is, I was a kid from Campbelltown, who knew no-one, went to public school, and just got into media and love what I do. So, I come from a place of, I know what it is to be nobody.

0:34:13.9

Lisa:

And to see good people repressed, suppressed, and their stories not heard. And certainly, particularly, writing my book at the moment and looking back on the treatment of women. And we've come a long way, if you look at the history of the world, we've come a long way in a very short space of time.

0:34:39.6

Lisa:

But we can't stop. And this is, like, if you were a bloke, you wouldn't be getting this treatment.

0:34:48.3

Brittany:

No, not at all.

0:34:48.3

David:

No, it's much easier.

0:34:49.2

Lisa:

Yeah. And it's not necessarily, it's certainly not just a gender story, it's a Canberra bubble story. But women in particular, it's, I mean, so often you hear, Canberra is not a safe place for women.

0:35:04.7

Brittany:

When I first started, I had so many people sort of have these conversations that at the time I thought were kind of strange. Like, don't sleep around, be careful who you're seen out with, and I just remember thinking, this was so strange and I just kind of thought it was politics. But now that I've been around, I'm like, oh, these were people who had lived in this world a little while.

0:35:21.9

Brittany:

And they were genuinely concerned. And I just didn't understand at the time. But, yeah.

0:35:27.7

Lisa:

So, if I Google, if I just Google my name and Linda Reynolds' name and Twitter, it should come up, shouldn't it?

0:35:37.1

David:

That's, yeah, not long ago. Because when you mentioned it, I went back and looked at it, just for fun.

0:35:43.2

Lisa:

Yeah, but you didn't have access to the private part.

0:35:44.7

David:

I didn't know. You mentioned the private -

0:35:46.5

Brittany:

I'm just, it made me remember it being like, oh no.

0:35:48.9

Lisa:

But what was she thinking?

0:35:49.6

Brittany:

I don't know.

0:35:50.1

Lisa:

Telling me about Wodonga and Wangaratta and the floods in December and, it's just like -

0:35:55.0

Brittany:

But the way she sort of structures her arguments have always been kind of confusing. I don't know if you remember, she went on Q + A once and conflated terrorism with boat people. And I just remember being like, what is happening.

0:36:05.0

Lisa:

It was just after the David Speers -

0:36:05.7

Brittany:

Yes.

0:36:06.3

Lisa:

- interview.

0:36:06.7

Brittany:

Yes. I am -

0:36:08.2

Lisa:

Mathias Cormann's quote that she thought was Bill Shorten's.

0:36:10.8

Brittany:

I know, I know, I remember.

0:36:12.1

Lisa:

She's an idiot.

0:36:13.1

David:

You were in the green room that day, right?

0:36:15.2

Brittany:

Yeah. And then [0:36:15.3] -

0:36:15.6

David:
Did she think she did well?

0:36:18.1

Brittany:
I think it took about an hour or two to internalise what had happened. But I think afterwards, she thought she was fine. And I was like, I don't know.

0:36:24.4

Lisa:
Oh, you're joking. Because it was in the same week as the Q + A thing.

0:36:27.9

Brittany:
Yeah, yeah. And she was, thank you. Yeah.

0:36:32.1

Lisa:
And it was literally about a week after I'd had the exchange with her. I just thought, this woman, this idiot is everywhere.

0:36:42.1

Brittany:
Once again, she was sort of promoted really quickly, was never really sort of tried and put through her -

0:36:45.1

Lisa:
Well, because they were plugging that hole.

0:36:47.8

Brittany:
Yeah, exactly. That's right.

0:36:47.8

Lisa:
To shut her up.

0:36:49.1

Brittany:
Exactly.

0:36:53.9

David:
Oh, so, she sold out to get that Defence thing?

0:36:57.2

Brittany:
Yeah.

0:36:57.5

David:
Because she was shut out, she was shut out to -

0:36:59.5

Brittany:
Well, yeah, it was a numbers thing. She backed the right horse.

[Silence/aside conversations 0:37:04.5 - 0:37:12.5]

0:37:12.5

Lisa:
There it is. So, my tweet was, Julie Bishop, Julia Banks, Kelly O'Dwyer, Ann Sudmalis. Makes you wonder how many, or few, women will be left in the LNP after the next election. Not that there were that many to begin with. Like, tell me what part of that is incorrect?

0:37:38.0

Brittany:
It's true.

0:37:39.2

Lisa:
So, her response, oh, it hasn't got the time on there. But I remember it was within twenty minutes. So disappointed in your trite, trivialisation of the significant contributions Julie Bishop has made over a brilliant twenty-year career. She deserves far better. FYI, Twitter handle, has preselect, sorry, not Twitter. Liberal Party handle.

0:38:06.3

Lisa:
Has preselected over twenty new and wonderfully diverse and strong female candidates like, and what's her name, [0:38:14.5], she's an Indigenous woman.

0:38:17.3

David:
Well, she clearly got in. Clearly it was a safe seat.

0:38:20.6

Lisa:
That's the thing. It was, and that was, as soon as I looked at it, I thought, oh, you're joking.

0:38:25.3

David:
They've been preselected in unwinnable seats.

0:38:26.9

Lisa:
Yep.

0:38:30.1

Angus:
See, we know brown people.

0:38:31.5

David:

It's like, I'm not racist, I have a black friend. It's that argument.

0:38:35.6

Angus:

I don't have his number.

0:38:37.1

Lisa:

And our cleaner's black.

0:38:38.3

Angus:

I don't have his number, but he knows me.

0:38:41.0

David:

Yeah, I was good to him when he was, yeah.

[Interruption0:38:47.4 - 0:39:01.4]

0:39:01.4

Angus:

How are you feeling? I mean, stupid question, really, but how are you, stupid question, really, but you've got wine, so that helps.

0:39:06.1

Brittany:

I feel better now. No, just broadly terrified.

0:39:12.4

Lisa:

Are you feeling comfortable with us?

0:39:14.3

Brittany:

Yep, yes, definitely. Very much so.

0:39:14.9

Lisa:

As a safe place to tell your story?

0:39:16.2

Brittany:

Very much so.

0:39:16.8

Lisa:

Because that's really important.

0:39:18.0

Brittany:

Definitely. I feel comfortable with you guys. I'm a little, obviously, the one apprehension I have is how we get Sam a part of this conversation, because she's been so good to me.

0:39:26.4

Angus:

Yeah, I think we make that happen pretty quickly.

0:39:28.7

Lisa:

Yeah.

0:39:29.3

Brittany:

And I really, I don't -

0:39:30.0

Lisa:

We won't muck around on that.

0:39:31.9

Brittany:

I don't want to put her offside. She's, yeah, she's great and I really, I just want it to be like a cohesive team, going forward. I want to do one print, one online, and then just disappear.

0:39:41.8

Lisa:

See, we want that as well, because -

0:39:43.4

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:39:44.1

Angus:

Yeah, we don't want to, there shouldn't be a competition, we should -

0:39:46.0

Lisa:

- it just makes sense to drop the story on the Sunday morning, she gets grabs from us, she points to our -

0:39:51.5

Brittany:

And then it goes -

0:39:52.1

Lisa:

- TV interview, and it's -

0:39:53.7

Brittany:
Exactly.

0:39:53.3

Lisa:
Like, everything's covered.

0:39:54.5

Brittany:
Yep.

0:39:54.6

David:
But you're saying that you like that, too, you like that way of doing things. Where it's sort of broken in the papers and, I like the idea of it being a team where you guys talk to each other and give each other a grab.

0:40:06.8

Lisa:
Yep.

0:40:06.8

David:
Maybe that night on the show, you get on a friendly Labor politician to back it in and explain it.

0:40:12.4

Angus:
And the thing is, the thing is also, that we'll keep you, I'll keep you informed exactly how it goes. So, from interview through the end of process and that, and we'll, and I'm not going to give you the exact questions that Lisa and I work through. But I'll be, we'll be able to sort of go, okay, we're going to cover this section, this section, this section.

0:40:38.0

Brittany:
And I know broad days and stuff where I'd been in the background of panning shots, when people are at pressers. So, I can kind of point to that, if you need more of that sort of background filler, that's fine.

0:40:46.6

Angus:
Yes.

0:40:46.3

Brittany:
Me standing in a courtyard, holding a recording device and that. So, I can help you with that sort of stuff, too, if you need.

0:40:52.7

David:

I know Cash has been good to you, and I have to say this. There's a really good grab of Cash, the day, there was, Eryk Bagshaw did a story on two, the New South Wales women who were assaulted. That next day, Cash was in the corridor and she got door-stopped and she's saying, basically, I encourage women to go to the police and stuff like that.

0:41:12.4

David:

So, you've got precedent there and grabs and stuff that you can kind of fall back on. And as Britt said, there's vision of her standing in the courtyard next to Cash and there's a photo of her and Scott Morrison next to each other. I know that kind of stuff, producer-wise, you need to tell a picture. I don't know how we could get the vision from Doc or anything.

0:41:30.8

David:

But I don't think the police are just going to hand that out.

0:41:37.0

Brittany:

Hm, joy.

0:41:39.8

Lisa:

So, are you thinking, at this stage, that you will resign next week?

0:41:43.9

Brittany:

Yeah, yep, end of next week. So, I'm thinking on the Friday and then I've got to serve out two weeks after that. So, that'll wrap up the last, I think there'll be a sitting week or two in that period. But, yeah.

0:41:57.0

Angus:

Is there a reason that you've decided on that you're going to tell them that you're resigning for?

0:42:02.2

Brittany:

I think I'll, I don't know how much to say to them. I mean, I've got like a plausible deniability lie that I just want to finish out my degree and move onto my Master's. And I think that will just placate them. I will -

0:42:15.2

Angus:

So, this is just before uni starts?

0:42:17.4

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. So, I think that -

0:42:17.9

Angus:

So, that's good timing.

0:42:18.2

Brittany:

- contextually, makes sense. I don't know if it's worth even bringing up having another conversation about the incident, what happened. Like, I mean, personally, if it wasn't a political matter or a story matter, I would love to have that conversation again with them. And execute it as I'm going out and have that talk.

0:42:37.6

Brittany:

But I think that may just raise too many red flags, and I think it would just freak them out, if I was leaving -

0:42:42.9

Angus:

Is there such thing as an exit interview?

0:42:47.6

Brittany:

No.

0:42:48.5

Angus:

No, I didn't think so.

0:42:49.5

David:

Yeah, it's just, hand us your phone.

0:42:51.3

Brittany:

No. No, they'll immediately start deleting my assets immediately. Like, I will have no -

0:42:55.3

Lisa:

Yeah, I don't get the impression it's the sort of place where it thinks, now, how could we do this better?

0:42:59.8

Angus:

No.

0:43:00.4

David:

Were you happy?

0:43:02.8

Brittany:

No.

0:43:04.4

Lisa:

So, in terms of timing, though, how does that work? If you resign, are you thinking next Monday?

0:43:11.1

Brittany:

Next Friday. So, then there'll, yeah, there's two weeks from that, which will then go straight into that weekend where that story, theoretically, would -

0:43:17.7

David:

And if there's -

0:43:18.0

Lisa:

Right. So, you'd leave on the Friday and we'd run it on the Sunday?

0:43:21.2

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:43:21.6

Lisa:

So, we need to work out when we do interviews.

0:43:27.7

Angus:

Sorry, I'm working out how to get this pork onto the chip at the moment.

0:43:31.3

Lisa:

I'm glad you're going after the important stuff at the moment.

0:43:33.8

David:

You did it.

0:43:37.3

Brittany:

The achiever.

0:43:42.9

Angus:

Okay. So -

0:43:44.9

David:

Stupid question, because we're having lunch together, you do want to run this?

0:43:49.1

Angus:

Yes.

0:43:49.5

David:

Okay. I know it's, I just wanted to, I didn't know whether -

0:43:53.2

Lisa:

We're not just here for a gossip.

0:43:55.3

David:

No, no, no. Just -

0:43:56.7

Lisa:

But that was the reason -

0:43:57.4

David:

It's so complicated that -

0:43:58.3

Lisa:

That's the reason to have this, so we can ask all of the questions that we've been saying to each other for the last week. And with our EP, Craig, because, as we've been talking through, we've been trying to work out, okay, so, what are the allegations here. What is it that is wrong with the way the system works in a situation where a woman's been raped in a minister's office.

0:44:26.1

Lisa:

So, that's why this was us asking all of those questions. We now -

0:44:30.8

David:

How visually do you tell it?

0:44:32.5

Lisa:

Yeah, there's that, but also, we go back to the Ten Lawyer and all of his questions, hopefully, will be answered. So that he knows what we can and can't say, and any of his concerns about where we stand, in terms of defamation and everything.

0:44:52.1

Brittany:

Yep.

0:44:52.6

David:

And you don't name Bruce, obviously, because -

0:44:54.3

Brittany:
No, you can't.

0:44:55.0

David:
Yeah.

0:44:57.4

Brittany:
But that's all right. The people that know in the party will, it's two and two. He was fired at that time, he was in that office, they'll know, and that's what [0:45:03.7]. He would never get a preselection now.

0:45:06.2

David:
And he'll be shitting himself when it comes out.

0:45:09.5

Brittany:
And that's the thing.

0:45:09.6

David:
That's good enough for me.

0:45:10.0

Brittany:
He's worth one of those, sort of, legacy ones that's going to eventually, he'll run for a seat. And so, if enough people can put two and two together, it'll stop him from getting preselected for the seat of Wentworth, or something, one day.

0:45:22.4

Angus:
Yeah. Well, I mean, they're obviously, when it comes to naming Bruce -

0:45:32.9

Brittany:
Yep, he, that's fine, I don't expect that ever to happen.

0:45:35.8

Angus:
Well -

0:45:37.0

Lisa:
Depends on whether you want to press charges.

0:45:39.8

Brittany:
If I can, after estimates, definitely.

0:45:43.0

Angus:

Yeah. And then, when it comes to defamation, he's reputation is clearly going to be lowered by being called a rapist. And whether people could identify him -

0:45:59.9

Brittany:

I would love to -

0:46:00.3

Angus:

- by the story.

0:46:01.0

- have the court case on civil. If he wants to go me after, like on a civil basis, I think, on the balance of probabilities, I think I could win. I think it's, if the onus of proof is beyond a reasonable doubt, I think that would be different. I don't think I could win that.

0:46:12.9

Angus:

Yeah. So, I mean, this is a discussion to have with -

0:46:15.2

Brittany:

Lawyers.

0:46:15.4

Angus:

- the lawyers and stuff. But my feeling is that, if we didn't name him, and still, we may as well have named him. Because so many people would be able to identify him from the position and that kind of stuff. And various witnesses and stuff like that. So -

0:46:34.4

David:

You toss up whether to just bother, just do it.

0:46:36.2

Angus:

Well, it's -

0:46:39.0

Brittany:

He'll still come after us? Sorry, this is probably a conversation for a lawyer.

0:46:44.0

Angus:

Yeah, it's something that I'd need to sort of figure out with the lawyer and then come back to you and then decide. But if we, so, presuming that it's virtually impossible to, depending on how far, how many details you go through, it can either lead to identifying him or reducing that to quite a small number of people that it could possibly be.

0:47:13.6

Angus:

Which is still just as much as you could name him anyway. And so, therefore, we should be going, if we're making the accusation about him, as well as making the accusations against all the people who have been -

0:47:31.5

Lisa:

The systems.

0:47:32.4

Angus:

The systems and covering up, then we, at the right time, so as to prevent there being injunctions and things like that.

0:47:42.7

Brittany:

Yep.

0:47:44.4

Angus:

We would go to him and we would go to minister's office, if we're making accusations, we have to give everyone a reasonable chance to reply. And reasonable can be pretty iffy, as long as it's not five minutes before broadcast. And if it's ten minutes, we should be okay.

0:48:05.1

David:

So, how do you do that, if she quits on the Friday, do we, do you need to take a sick day on the Thursday. Like, how, if you've given notice over a weekend, is that going to be enough time for them to, because if she's quitting on the Friday, you're putting the story to air on the Sunday. Is that enough time for them to have given their right of reply?

0:48:23.7

Lisa:

I'm wondering if you should have a sick day on the last day.

0:48:25.9

David:

Friday.

0:48:26.8

Brittany:

I think that feels good.

0:48:27.9

Angus:

Can you just take, just be, oh my, I'm just not well again.

0:48:30.6

Lisa:

Yeah, or Thursday, have a headache.

0:48:32.3

Brittany:

Mm-hm. Yeah.

0:48:34.0

David:

And who cares if, by that point, they're suspicious. What are they going to do, hack your phone again? Like -

0:48:38.9

Brittany:

Yeah. I'll just have to remove myself from, because they have these WhatsApp groups of the ministry press sec, so everyone who's a ministerial advisor is in these groups. And they talk pretty open slather about things and people, and I just can't be in those sort of groups when this is all sort of starting to transpire. Because it'll be brutal.

0:48:59.2

Lisa:

What they put forward as, well, this is what she said about blah blah?

0:49:03.7

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

0:49:05.5

Lisa:

So -

0:49:06.0

Brittany:

It's like, Carswell, who your colleague has, it's that sort of tone, it's that sort of conduct. And it'll be scathing. I can't even conceive of how horrible it will be.

0:49:17.5

Lisa:

So, how are you working at the moment with your phone, if you've had all that stuff -

0:49:21.2

Brittany:

I swapped it to one of the other devices. So, they just have devices on hand so, I just swapped it to a different one. So, I've just popped the new SIM in that one and pretty much started afresh in the interim.

0:49:31.7

Lisa:

So, they think that all of your photos are where?

0:49:36.2

Brittany:

Just on, I don't know.

[Interruption 0:49:37.9 - 0:50:03.2

0:50:03.2

Angus:

Timewise, and when I mean, date-wise [inaudible 0:50:06.1] twenty-first. A normal story, we would want to sort of be editing for about three days. So, I always kind of work backwards from there, but this is not a normal story. So, I could record in a week before, and get it to the air, but that would be very stressful.

0:50:29.8

Lisa:

You're going to hate me, but I've got the week, the second week of Feb off.

0:50:34.4

Angus:

No, I don't hate you for that, because that makes it, that actually makes it better. Because I think, if we record it some point next week -

0:50:40.6

Brittany:

Mm-hm.

0:50:42.4

Angus:

- then that means, so you're still around?

0:50:44.0

Lisa:

Yep.

0:50:44.7

Angus:

And then, that means I've got time to put it together, figure out the holes that I need to fill, when it comes to responses. And legal, and everything like that, before I get really seriously into editing. So, that would be, I think, the best case for me.

0:51:03.0

Lisa:

It could also be a case of doing the initial master interview and going and filling in whatever holes appear. And then, maybe, getting you back again?

0:51:14.1

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:51:14.5

Angus:

Yeah, that could be the case. Yeah, yeah, yeah, good point. So, yeah, as long as we've got that master [inaudible 0:51:21.2] -

0:51:23.1

Angus:

- we do sometime next week, then, yeah, that gives us that third week in Feb, from the fifteenth, to pick up anything else with you and you're back then, as well. And it's still another week before we go to broadcast.

0:51:33.2

Lisa:

I've got an interview with Natalie Portman on Monday morning. So -

0:51:39.8

Angus:

Oh, is this -

0:51:40.5

Lisa:

- given than I'm, I mean, Monday's meant to be my day off.

0:51:43.2

Angus:

You mean this Monday coming?

0:51:44.4

Lisa:

This Monday coming.

0:51:45.2

Angus:

The first?

0:51:45.6

Lisa:

Yeah.

0:51:46.1

Angus:

Yeah, right.

0:51:46.3

Lisa:

So, I'll have hair and makeup done so, if you wanted to film at some point on the Monday, I'll be ready to go.

0:51:54.6

Angus:

Okay. So -

0:51:56.0

Lisa:

But that will also depend on -

0:51:58.8

Brittany:

I mean, I'm a lawyer, it's not -

0:51:59.5

Lisa:

So, we can come to you.

0:52:01.7

Brittany:

Up to Canberra, honestly, it'd be -

0:52:02.9

David:

Oh, Lisa Wilkinson's in Canberra, what's going on. Oh, Brittany's with her.

0:52:06.2

Brittany:

Yeah, it's a tiny little world. Everyone's, if they're not in government, they're in a department. I could come to you.

0:52:11.9

David:

The question from the cheap seats, you film it on, obviously, not a news camera, so, they're different cameras. The card, is that ingested into a Channel 10 newsroom somewhere, where someone -

0:52:21.9

Lisa:

Don't think so. I think it -

0:52:22.5

David:

- goes, hey -

0:52:22.9

Lisa:

- stays on the Roving -

0:52:25.0

David:

- I met this girl once, she's a Cash staffer.

0:52:30.6

Angus:

That's a good question. Yeah, our stuff is on a shared server, so we could do it differently.

0:52:36.8

David:

I'm just worried, I mean, I know I'm being paranoid. But I just think, Canberra is so small, all you need is the Channel 10 political reporter to see it, go, oh, that's like, Cash's staffer, I met her once. Oh, why is she interviewing, I'll watch this. And it's just -

0:52:51.2

Brittany:
Yeah.

0:52:53.1

David:
- not, so, do you want to quit next week?

0:52:55.3

Brittany:
Uh-huh.

0:52:55.7

David:
Do you want to quit, why don't you just quit? I know you're worried about me, but just quit. Be safe. I can work, if work fires me because of this -

0:53:07.9

Brittany:
I know, but fundamentally, okay, say if they find out [0:53:12.1]. It'll be embarrassing, it'll be mean, I'll be called into PMO, I'll have, what they, they can't do anything to me.

0:53:22.8

David:
But it's enough for you. You -

0:53:24.9

Brittany:
It's scary, obviously. Your [0:53:26.9] in Carswell, and all the team, Cash and Co.

0:53:32.2

Lisa:
You know your best response, if they want to try and bully you?

0:53:36.0

Brittany:
Hm?

0:53:36.9

Lisa:
Just look them in the eye, and say, I was raped in a minister's office.

0:53:40.9

Brittany:
Hm. Yeah.

0:53:44.6

David:
I just think, for your own mental health, get out of there. We can -

0:53:48.7

Brittany:

Yeah. They're not small fries.

0:53:50.9

David:

We can figure the rest out.

0:53:51.8

Brittany:

Yeah. I'd liken Yaron to like, Frank Underwood from *House of Cards*. He's like -

0:53:56.6

Angus:

Oh, god.

0:53:57.4

Brittany:

He is like the, he's the fixer.

0:53:59.0

David:

Kevin Spacey or Frank Underwood?

0:54:00.1

Brittany:

He is like, he's the PMO fixer. He is that guy. And so, yeah.

0:54:08.4

Lisa:

Look, the, you don't need to -

0:54:09.2

Brittany:

He's scary.

0:54:09.8

Lisa:

- make any decisions right now. You need to process this entire -

0:54:12.9

Brittany:

Yep.

0:54:13.8

Lisa:

Because this is probably the most you've ever spoken about it, isn't it?

0:54:17.2

Brittany:

Pretty much, yeah.

0:54:17.8

Lisa:

And it's probably, we're probably the most inquisitive sounding board you've ever had, apart from David.

0:54:23.6

Brittany:

David talks a lot.

0:54:27.0

Lisa:

But in a good way.

0:54:28.3

Brittany:

Yes.

0:54:29.8

Lisa:

So, you need to really -

0:54:31.1

Brittany:

Yes.

0:54:33.5

Lisa:

- just kind of work out, well, what timing does work best for me. But also, keep in mind, what timing is going to minimise the, in terms of mental health.

0:54:46.7

Brittany:

Yep.

0:54:47.0

Lisa:

You know. Like, if you feel like it's going to be torture, staying there for another two weeks, knowing that this is going to happen, keep that in mind as well. We can sort of work in whatever timeframe you want, to come up and do one or more interviews. But I just think you need to think about this for at least tonight.

0:55:11.7

Brittany:

Yeah, that's good.

0:55:12.2

Lisa:

Just sit on the plane, look out the window.

0:55:16.1

Brittany:
Yes.

0:55:16.6

David:
Because I love you, no surprises, but I'm concerned of you doing an interview with Lisa, you've opened up, it's going to be traumatic.

0:55:26.4

Brittany:
Mm-hm.

0:55:26.8

David:
You're then going to have to be all bubbly back in work for two weeks. I just, I know you've had it for two years.

0:55:32.9

Lisa:
Yeah, you're a pretty good actor.

0:55:35.2

Brittany:
Broadly, I don't think they super care about my mental health. I don't think they are invested, personally, whether I'm smiling or -

0:55:40.6

Lisa:
No, but the other three people at this table are.

0:55:42.5

Brittany:
That's nice.

0:55:43.3

David:
No, Linda cares.

0:55:48.7

Lisa:
I've got, I've got her in my sights now. Now that I've refreshed my memory on that.

0:55:52.3

David:
Do you, because I said to Britt, ultimately, what do you want out of this. She goes, well, I want Bruce to forever have it difficult getting a job, like it's going to be difficult for me.

0:56:03.0

Lisa:
Yeah.

0:56:04.1

David:

And then you said, best case scenario, Linda Reynolds.

0:56:08.6

Brittany:

I was just reaching, but, oh.

0:56:11.3

David:

I just, yeah. You want to, I know you want your story told, but you also have to think of yourself.

0:56:16.9

Brittany:

Yeah, it's fine. I just don't want anyone else to go through that. It was pretty horrible. You know, I've heard, I don't know what you've heard, but I heard that there was some, there was the woman involved in the *Four Corners*, the other woman, the one who was part of the Porter story. I heard something pretty terrible had happened to her, and that she wasn't okay.

0:56:35.1

Lisa:

She lost, there was some position that she was up for, or she was on a board -

0:56:39.7

David:

Oh, that's Rachelle.

0:56:40.6

Brittany:

That's Rachelle. There was another story.

0:56:41.6

Lisa:

Oh, that's Rachelle.

0:56:42.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

0:56:42.5

David:

I heard, and this is, I've heard it from a few, I heard it from the media reporter at the News at Nine, heard it a little bit from Sam Maiden, and I heard another bit from a Sky journo, that *Four Corners*, now, I don't know how true this is, I'm just saying what I've heard. She was allegedly raped by Christian Porter back when she was at university.

0:57:02.7

David:

That never sat well with her, she used to have quite, never sat well with her. She spoke to her friends and, as he rose and rose and rose, that got more difficult for her, as it would. *Four Corners*

had her as part of the story, and it kind of makes sense. Because that *Four Corners* thing always felt like they were going after Porter, not Tudge. It always felt like they were missing something.

0:57:20.3

David:

And I heard that she was in it, and Covid hit, and she killed herself during Covid. And that's why they hadn't had her in it. And I don't know, that's just what I've heard from different journos and I don't know whether it was Chinese whispers. But that's what I've heard, and so, I mean, given the culture

-

0:57:36.1

Lisa:

But hang on, there were two main women.

0:57:39.4

David:

Yeah. There was the Katherine [sic] Foley, who was a -

0:57:43.0

Brittany:

Lawyer.

0:57:43.5

David:

- lawyer student with Porter.

0:57:44.9

Lisa:

Yeah.

0:57:45.3

Brittany:

She also didn't get her job. Sorry, I'm just, I like to travel back to these women. She didn't get her job, either.

0:57:49.1

Angus:

Yeah, you're going to be a great waitress.

0:57:53.1

Brittany:

I can make a mean macchiato.

0:57:56.7

David:

There was Rachelle, who lost her defence, sorry. Lost her job, not even with government. She was going for a job in Defence, the department, and she -

0:58:05.9

Brittany:

Yeah, but obviously, you know who the biggest spender in Defence contracting is?

0:58:10.3

David:

Linda Reynolds, yeah.

0:58:11.3

Brittany:

Yeah. We're all shocked.

0:58:13.1

Angus:

The best bit is Linda Reynolds will see this story through my company, because we send her her media clips.

0:58:19.3

Brittany:

We're doing a parliamentary showcase before all this starts. So, it's going to be great, we're having fun.

0:58:23.4

Lisa:

If we've got room for it, it would actually be interesting to have post-scripts on what happened to all the women who were in the *Four Corners* story. What fallout was for them.

0:58:33.8

David:

Sam can help you there. She knows them all.

0:58:35.0

Lisa:

Yeah. Once they speak out -

0:58:38.0

Brittany:

Successively -

0:58:38.9

Lisa:

- how does Canberra -

0:58:39.2

Brittany:

- they've all lost their jobs.

0:58:39.6

Lisa:

- pay back. Yeah.

0:58:42.3

David:

Yeah. It's very brave speaking, but what happens to you after you speak. They, it digs them a little bit, and then they just destroy your life.

0:58:50.7

Brittany:

Hm. I've been in contact with, I spoke to Dhanya Mani, who was the one, the New South Wales, in Eryk Bagshaw's story. And we spoke just off the record, as women who have been a part of this sort of system. And she understands the Liberal Party and, yeah, she found it so hard to get a job for a good twelve months after it happened. Yeah.

0:59:09.9

Brittany:

And still to this day, it still follows her. She was very honest about that.

0:59:17.1

Lisa:

Yeah, I think that kind of, and it also speaks to the fact that you're being very brave, standing up and doing this. You're not a disgruntled, ex-staffer. It's not like, and this is recent, it's not something that's from university days, twenty-five years ago.

0:59:34.8

Angus:

No.

0:59:35.5

David:

And you don't want any, it's not like they, you're not after money, you're not after, you're just after your story being told. And so, it makes it easier for someone else.

0:59:44.3

Brittany:

Oh my god, they just can't do this to people.

0:59:46.3

Lisa:

Yeah.

0:59:48.0

Brittany:

It's torture.

0:59:48.6

David:

Yeah.

0:59:48.9

Lisa:

Hm.

0:59:54.3

David:

Yeah. I mean, yeah, if, logistically, if you stayed, I'm guessing the interview's done in a private, kind of like this. Done in a private location and you just -

1:00:01.3

Lisa:

Yep.

1:00:02.0

Brittany:

Yep.

1:00:02.2

David:

As long as the card's kept safe and -

1:00:05.0

Lisa:

So, where do they think you are today?

1:00:08.3

Brittany:

Oh, I just took a personal leave day. They have no idea. I think, every once in a while, they kind of expect me to sort of drop off the map and just implode. Yeah, so, they're quite, they have allowances for me, broadly.

1:00:21.4

Lisa:

Are you going to get a Finkelstein call tonight?

1:00:24.9

Brittany:

Maybe.

1:00:25.1

Lisa:

You're just having a day off, right?

1:00:26.9

Brittany:

Maybe, yeah.

1:00:27.9

David:

Three wines in, what's up, Yaron?

1:00:33.0

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah, maybe. Yep.

1:00:35.1

Angus:

So, if -

1:00:35.6

Brittany:

What else do you need?

1:00:37.0

Angus:

Sorry, I just want to go through the -

1:00:38.4

Brittany:

Incident?

1:00:39.3

Angus:

No, just the -

1:00:39.6

Brittany:

Okay.

1:00:40.0

- timings, logistics, about when you would potentially quit and when we could do the interview.
That stuff.

1:00:45.3

Brittany:

Yep.

1:00:45.6

Angus:

So, were you thinking -

1:00:46.7

Brittany:

Hard deadline would be next Friday.

1:00:49.1

Angus:

So, the -

1:00:49.4

Brittany:

That would be the latest.

1:00:49.8

Angus:

- the fifth?

1:00:50.9

Brittany:
Yep.

1:00:51.3

Angus:
Okay. So, that would give you the two weeks' -

1:00:53.3

Brittany:
Yes.

1:00:53.6

Angus:
- notice period to the nineteenth.

1:00:55.0

Brittany:
Yep. But, potentially earlier than that, but hard deadline, definitely the Friday.

1:00:58.9

Angus:
Okay. And if we were to do a sit-down interview next week, would you be able to get the time off, or
-

1:01:08.3

Brittany:
Yeah, I can make it work.

1:01:09.4

Angus:
Okay.

1:01:09.7

Lisa:
Well, the other possibility is if these guys came up in the afternoon of say, Wednesday, so that, oh
no, there's probably not flights. We could do an interview like in this -

1:01:24.6

Angus:
Yeah.

1:01:25.4

Brittany:
Yeah, that's fine.

1:01:25.8

Lisa:
A spot like this, overnight. Just thinking -

1:01:27.5

David:

Alternatively, if you -

1:01:28.1

Angus:

Yeah, and then you get, fly back the next morning.

1:01:29.8

Brittany:

Yeah. That's fine. Yeah.

1:01:32.8

David:

Yeah.

1:01:34.3

Angus:

Yeah, that'd actually probably -

1:01:35.8

Brittany:

Be better?

1:01:36.6

Angus:

Yeah.

1:01:36.9

Brittany:

Yeah, I'm comfortable with that. That's fine.

1:01:38.7

Angus:

Yeah, that'd, I'm just thinking that might work better for you, rather than twice in two weeks.

1:01:44.3

Brittany:

Yeah. No, that'd work, that's fine.

1:01:46.8

David:

And I'm happy to, I don't, obviously, she'll do the interview with you and then be here by herself that night. Can I somehow get a, paying my own, like, can I come and -

1:01:54.2

Angus:

Oh no, we'd have you here.

1:01:55.2

David:

Okay. I just don't want her to be left alone.

1:01:56.0

Lisa:

No, definitely, we'd have you here.

1:01:57.7

Angus:

No, no, no, no. I'd want you here too.

1:01:58.9

David:

Like, you're strong, but, okay.

1:02:00.1

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:02:01.3

Angus:

Yeah, absolutely.

1:02:01.1

David:

Okay.

1:02:03.1

Angus:

Presumably, you would want him here too? You can tell us if you don't want him.

1:02:06.7

Lisa:

Hang on -

1:02:07.3

Brittany:

This is a conversation afterwards.

1:02:08.0

Lisa:

Brittany, you've got ownership. This is up to you to decide.

1:02:11.1

David:

Yeah, yeah.

1:02:11.9

Brittany:

It's a weird way to break up, but -

1:02:14.4

David:

It's all right. I've had worse. No, actually, I haven't. Before an interview, no, I haven't had that.

1:02:20.3

Lisa:

No, no, no, you're, it's very important that you be here.

1:02:22.5

David:

I just don't want you going -

1:02:23.7

Brittany:

No, no, no.

1:02:28.6

Lisa:

Was there something else you were going to -

1:02:30.2

Brittany:

Do we need to go through the actual incident itself?

1:02:32.7

Angus:

I think we do.

1:02:33.0

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:02:33.3

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah.

1:02:33.7

Angus:

Yeah. Let me just look -

1:02:35.2

David:

All right, so, I'll leave.

1:02:36.3

- through the rest of our questions. I think I'm -

1:02:39.0

David:

Unless you want me to stay? But I'm happy to go. No.

1:02:40.8

Lisa:

Yeah, I was looking through, but I couldn't, I'm pretty sure we've got every question covered off.

1:02:46.3

David:

So, did the lawyers give you a whole bunch of questions, or you had to kind of -

1:02:48.2

Lisa:

No.

1:02:49.0

David:

- gameplay yourself and -

1:02:50.3

Lisa:

You've had a conversation with Miles that I haven't had.

1:02:53.1

Angus:

[REDACTED]

1:03:01.8

Brittany:

Mm-hm.

1:03:03.0

Angus:

[REDACTED] I mean, was there, would you call that Saturday night drinks, given it was Defence people and other people within your office, including your superior, being Bruce.

1:03:23.7

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:03:24.6

Angus:

That would be classified as a work event, up to a point, wouldn't it?

1:03:30.0

Brittany:

Yeah, I mean, in terms of, that's just the way sort of Canberra socialises. But yes, I felt compelled to invite him on the basis that it was Defence Industry people, he was new to the portfolio, it was kind of a networking thing for him as well, I guess.

1:03:45.1

Angus:

Yeah.

1:03:45.0

David:
It was your -

1:03:45.2

Brittany:
And that was me getting goodwill, kind of, with my boss, I guess.

1:03:47.9

David:
If it was your own time, would you invite him out for a drink?

1:03:49.7

Brittany:
No, he's not my friend.

1:03:50.2

David:
Yeah, well, there's the answer.

1:03:51.3

Angus:
Yeah, that is the answer. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

1:03:54.1

Lisa:
I just realised, Linda Reynolds may delete that tweet.

1:03:57.9

Brittany:
You get a screenshot.

1:03:58.2

David:
Or hack your phone.

1:04:00.8

Lisa:
Well, yeah, who knows if that's a possibility.

1:04:01.7

Brittany:
[1:04:01.7]

1:04:05.8

Lisa:
So, I'm going to take a copy. I know she responded to me, but it doesn't seem to be there. Would she have deleted -

1:04:11.7

Brittany:

Maybe, yeah. I think we were all kind of panicked at the time. We were like, what are you doing, because she's a bit of a loose unit, in terms of -

1:04:17.3

David:

If you delete Twitter messages, they vanish, don't they?

1:04:19.6

Lisa:

Well, because I can't see -

1:04:22.6

Brittany:

The chain?

1:04:23.6

David:

Yeah, she would've probably deleted it.

1:04:24.0

Lisa:

- my response.

1:04:25.0

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:04:26.4

David:

Yeah. It's a good tweet.

1:04:30.1

Lisa:

I thought -

1:04:30.6

David:

Not hers.

1:04:31.6

Lisa:

And I thought that was really reasonable. As I said in the private message to her, if you're all for women, why would you have a problem with that?

1:04:40.5

David:

Because she's about to be Defence Minister. You leave her alone.

1:04:46.7

Lisa:

Yeah, I can't find it.

1:04:49.3

David:

Who would you think for talking heads in the story, other than, obviously, Britt. Are you thinking Julia Banks, or are you thinking of Sam Maiden?

1:04:55.0

Lisa:

Julia Banks would talk.

1:04:56.4

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:04:57.1

Angus:

Hm.

1:04:58.9

David:

I mean, grabs from Sam about the culture in that place, or -

1:05:07.8

Angus:

I don't know, you've got a pretty compelling story as it is, without having to need to -

1:05:11.5

David:

Have other people in there.

1:05:12.3

Angus:

- have other people on this.

1:05:14.1

Lisa:

Yeah. We've obviously got to get, we'll put in a request for an interview with Linda Reynolds.

1:05:20.2

Angus:

Yeah.

1:05:21.1

David:

I think you might be politely declined.

1:05:22.9

Angus:

Yeah.

1:05:23.6

Lisa:

But she'll want to deliver a statement. It could be via a flood zone in Wangaratta, knowing her, but, you know.

1:05:33.1

Brittany:

Oh my god, she's so scary.

1:05:34.4

David:

How does this feel, this must feel really weird.

1:05:36.7

Brittany:

Huh?

1:05:36.9

David:

This must feel very weird.

1:05:38.2

Brittany:

Oh, and just because I intimately know people behind the scenes who will be like, churning. I know it'll be Nicky, I know exactly who in those offices will be churning and [1:05:46.0] -

1:05:46.2

David:

Creevey and Carswell and -

1:05:47.5

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:05:48.9

David:

I'd, yeah.

1:05:49.8

Brittany:

I'll just have to turn my phone off.

1:05:51.6

Angus:

I think you should get a new SIM, to be honest.

1:05:53.2

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:05:53.7

Lisa:

Yeah, don't.

1:05:54.9

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:05:55.6

Lisa:

And why don't you just block -

1:05:56.7

Brittany:

Yeah, I'll have to.

1:05:57.7

Lisa:

Or maybe just completely change your number.

1:05:59.9

Brittany:

The hardest thing will be -

1:06:00.2

David:

Take down your [1:06:01.0] -

1:06:01.0

Brittany:

I know, I know. The hardest thing is people that I've sort of, over the past five years, whether they're friends or not is debatable.

1:06:08.9

Lisa:

You're about to find out.

1:06:09.8

Brittany:

Yeah, well, then they're not.

1:06:13.8

Lisa:

Well, that was easy.

1:06:15.3

Brittany:

I know, it's -

1:06:15.9

David: She's already given me the list. She's like, this one'll come for me, this one'll come for me, this one will block me, this one will come for me, this one will, oh my god. So much going on in your head.

1:06:24.0

Brittany:

No, I know, I know, it's fine. I'm not going to [1:06:25.7], but continue, sorry, what were we onto?

1:06:30.2

Angus:

I'm not sure, actually, where I was. Yeah, I'm just wondering about who is going to come for you, and -

1:06:43.8

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:06:44.2

Angus:

- how they -

1:06:45.5

Brittany:

How they'll frame it?

1:06:46.2

Angus:

You know, you guys know this system very well. How will they frame, how will they frame the idea that, two things. That two employees of a minister, one assaulted the other, in the minister's office. That one, major security incident. How are they going to cover that?

1:07:09.1

Brittany:

An alleged incident occurred inside Parliament House, we dealt with it. They'll go, if there was any sort of further criminal action, we encourage them to go to the police. And that'll mitigate that. They'll just say, if there was an alleged incident happened above and beyond the workplace dispute, we encourage that individual to go to the police. Done.

1:07:28.3

Lisa:

So, Then, my obvious question that I have to ask you, is they said that they encourage you to go to the police. What did that consist of?

1:07:42.1

Brittany:

They said if I chose to go to the police, they would support me but, at the end of the day, it was an ultimatum between my job and proceeding with any sort of criminal action. And so, I was in a vulnerable position, and I didn't really have any real recourse.

1:07:58.4

Lisa:

Then I'd probably ask you, did they tell you why they sacked Bruce?

1:08:02.1

Brittany:

No. No, they never told me, specifically, their reasoning for firing Bruce. I can deduce, it was on the basis of the incident that occurred between us, it was the assault. But they never gave me a reason why.

1:08:19.0

Lisa:

And have you been in touch with him since?

1:08:21.2

Brittany:

God, no.

1:08:21.9

Brittany:

Has he been in touch with you?

1:08:23.3

Brittany:

No. No. We, I immediately blocked him after the event. Every once in a while, he would stalk my current boss' Instagram. He's like, like and unlike photos, just so I'd get the little notifications that it was him. But beyond that, he never personally has contacted me.

1:08:39.3

Lisa:

The answer you really need to think about is -

1:08:42.7

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:08:43.2

Lisa:

- why didn't you press charges?

1:08:44.8

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:08:47.3

Lisa:

I'm, I have every confidence that you will answer that very eloquently, but it's one you just need to really think about.

1:08:54.2

Brittany:

Yep, I'll -

1:08:54.8

Lisa:

And you need to -

1:08:55.2

Brittany:

- whittle it down to a bite.

1:08:56.4

Lisa:

Yeah, but speak about the culture that, I don't want to put words in your mouth, but if you can enunciate the fact that this place is all about suppression of people's natural sense of justice. Because you see around you the way that this place works.

1:09:18.0

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:09:19.3

Lisa:

That will help. And that people who work there feel like they've reached the top of the mountain, and you don't want to leave the top of the mountain. Because this is where -

1:09:28.3

Brittany:

This was the pinnacle.

1:09:29.0

Lisa:

- this is government. This is everything you've ever wanted, and it's either, you play by their rules or you're out of there.

1:09:37.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:09:39.4

Angus:

Would you be happy to, I mean, not that it makes a difference if we say what our position is. But would you be happy to name people like Fiona?

1:09:48.2

Brittany:

Definitely.

1:09:49.0

Angus:

Because, to me, that is a key meeting around what the culture is like.

1:09:54.0

Brittany:

Yep.

1:09:55.5

Angus:

That there is no, it's a long time before anyone expresses any sympathy towards you. And that was a crisis meeting for the government. And you're supposed to be part of the solution, suddenly, in there.

1:10:08.7

Brittany:

Yeah. No, I'm more than comfortable, that's fine.

1:10:11.5

Angus:

Okay. Because I think the story will clearly have an explosive element of there is just no moral compass. That everyone is treated as a political weapon, rather than as a human.

1:10:43.3

Lisa:

And it exists within its own set of rules. I mean -

1:10:45.1

Angus:

Own set of rules, yeah.

1:10:45.2

Lisa:

- the whole situation with the police. The fact that you can't get access to CCTV footage that a whole bunch of other people have seen.

1:10:54.2

Brittany:

Have seen. Yeah.

1:10:55.7

Lisa:

And that you asked for it, repeatedly, you were never given access to it, the police outside of the parliamentary set of police, asked for it and were stonewalled.

1:11:08.8

David:

Some were concerned about your welfare that they escalated it to their boss.

1:11:12.7

Brittany:

Yeah, no, yeah. It's true.

1:11:17.8

David:

I'm guessing you go through that stuff. So, I will go for a walk.

1:11:20.7

Angus:

Okay.

1:11:21.0

Brittany:
Okay.

[Interruption 1:11:22.7 - 1:11:45.3]

1:11:45.3

Lisa:

Are you still, once you've gone into the Employee Assistance Program, do you sort of remain there on hold?

1:11:53.4

Brittany:

I mean, I'm sure they probably have a register of names of people who have contacted them. But I have no way to access it myself. I'm not sure how that's monitored, or which department monitors, I guess, it'd be Department of Finance. Because technically, they're sort of, it's their remit, which is employee, yeah.

1:12:10.4

Brittany:

So, probably Department of Finance would be the best place to sort of start with.

1:12:15.5

Lisa:

But did they, given that you waited and got that message saying, it's going to be a four-week wait, had you spoken to a person who'd taken down your name -

1:12:25.2

Brittany:

Yes.

1:12:25.2

Lisa:

- and details?

1:12:25.9

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. I put my name down for that appointment, but it was during the election period. So, ultimately, I couldn't even take it up because I was working.

1:12:32.2

Lisa:

And then the election just swept everything away and you didn't know what your employment situation was going to be?

1:12:37.5

Brittany:

Yeah, exactly. And so, it was kind of a moot point at that point.

1:12:39.5

Lisa:

Just never followed through.

1:12:40.7

Brittany:
Yeah.

[Interruption 1:12:41.4 - 1:12:55.6]

1:12:55.6

Lisa:
In terms of any kind of paper or digital trail, is everything now gone because of your phone being wiped?

1:13:05.3

Brittany:
Predominantly, most of all of our meetings and correspondence and anything pertaining to anything sensitive was always done via WhatsApp.

1:13:13.1

Lisa:
Yep. And that's all gone?

1:13:14.7

Brittany:
Yep, pretty much. Yeah, I have that one message from Fiona, setting up that potential meeting with Linda Reynolds, which I have in my documents. But beyond that, they never, they would never put anything in a diary. We'd never send an email for anything like this because it's instantaneously classified and it's instantaneously FOI-able.

1:13:34.5

Brittany:
And that is inherently problematic. And so, we never correspond anything broadly sensitive. It's WhatsApp and otherwise, if it's actually bad, it's voice message and if it's not that, we'll use Signal, which then self-destructs.

1:13:47.2

Lisa:
So, that whole place operates and proceeds on a basis of we don't trust anyone.

1:13:54.0

Brittany:
Yeah, definitely.

1:13:54.3

Lisa:
We don't conduct ourselves in a way where we can be transparent if anybody wants to check on how we're all behaving.

1:14:03.9

Brittany:

Yeah, no, absolutely. And that's just sort of drilled down because I think, what's sort of imparted to us as staffers, is that things can be taken out of context. That's what we're told. Anything can be taken out of context and it's best, if it's anything potentially contentious, let's just WhatsApp. We'll discuss it, we'll sort it out, and then we'll do it officially in an email after the fact.

1:14:24.0

Brittany:

So, predominantly, so much of my work is done via WhatsApp.

1:14:27.3

Lisa:

Okay.

1:14:28.3

Brittany:

Yep.

1:14:31.3

Angus:

So, we're going to sound a bit prying.

1:14:34.8

Brittany:

No, go for it.

1:14:35.5

Angus:

So, again, tap out or say, tell us what you prefer not to answer. But this is so we know what we have to know.

1:14:46.2

Brittany:

Yeah, of course.

1:14:46.7

Angus:

So, that we know what we can include and what we can leave out. So, I think we sort of got up to the point where you and Bruce had got through that ministerial security.

1:14:58.2

Brittany:

Yes.

1:14:58.3

Angus:

And then, got, and then, would he have swiped into the larger Reynolds' office?

1:15:05.4

Brittany:

Yeah. So, you come through, there's like, three gates to actually get through the ministerial entrance of Parliament House. So, there's the primary gate and you've got to swipe a staff pass to get through

into this underground basement. And that's where all the ministers sort of park their cars, or their drivers come up and it's this underground basement at the back end of Parliament House.

1:15:24.1

Angus:

Yep.

1:15:24.9

Brittany:

And then you go through the next set of doors and it's kind of like airport security. That you have to take off all your belts, you have to take off your shoes, there are two security guards there. If you don't have a pass, there's like a sign-in form, they have to verify you with photo ID. So, it's quite a stringent identification process.

1:15:42.1

Brittany:

And he had a pass, I was on a night out with friends, I did not bring my staff pass to Parliament House. It was not something that I was intending to be.

1:15:49.3

Lisa:

Well, you weren't planning on going there.

1:15:50.4

Brittany:

No. No, I had zero intention -

1:15:51.0

Lisa:

But that's proof positive that -

1:15:52.8

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:15:53.2

Lisa:

So, why did he have his on a Saturday?

1:15:56.1

Brittany:

I don't know. I have no idea.

1:15:57.6

Lisa:

That's a very point.

1:15:57.8

Angus:

It's very odd.

1:15:59.3

Brittany:

Yeah, I have no idea.

1:16:00.5

Lisa:

And so, he had his -

1:16:01.4

Angus:

Do you know where he'd been before?

1:16:03.5

Brittany:

No. No, I don't. I invited him offhand on the basis that a lot of my Defence Industry contacts, that I knew because of working in Ciobo's office, were there. And I was like, oh, this is nice, he now works in this portfolio, he should probably come down and meet these people.

1:16:17.9

Angus:

Yeah.

1:16:18.6

Lisa:

That's a very, we must get that point across. Because that whole thing of what an incredibly safe place it is to rape someone, I mean, that looks like intent.

1:16:28.8

Angus:

Yeah. Okay, so, you've clumsily signed in?

1:16:35.9

Brittany:

Yeah. So, I just -

1:16:36.3

Angus:

Through the airport section.

1:16:37.4

Brittany:

Yeah, I remember him just telling me to just be quiet for a second, and we'll make it through. And I was like, I don't know. I was kind of broadly open to suggestion at that point. I was like, okay, whatever, I don't, I just kind of want to get back in my cab and go home. And so, I didn't mind, so I was just quiet.

1:16:53.7

Brittany:

And so, what I've heard, second-hand, is that I was barely able to sign my name. Or the iteration of my signature was clearly, I wasn't with it. And then, the video of me going through that footage, I

had to take off my high heels or something, and I was stumbling all over the place. I wasn't capable of really even walking through the security system, even myself.

1:17:16.4

Brittany:

And so, there were two security guards there, because they're always there. And I was really, apparently, struggling to make it through security. And that's visible on camera, apparently. And then, so, we had to go into a lift, and that goes up to the ministerial level. So, there's either the ground floor, or level one. And -

1:17:35.7

Angus:

Do you remember much about that lift trip or anything?

1:17:37.8

Brittany:

No.

1:17:38.2

Angus:

No.

1:17:38.8

Brittany:

No, not at all. I remember getting into the office, at that point, and I remember him sort of being away for a while. And I was kind of sitting on the edge and I remember just feeling really tired, and really sleepy.

1:17:51.4

Angus:

So, on the edge of a couch?

1:17:53.4

Brittany:

Of, no, this, these windowsills that look into the parliamentary courtyard, the Prime Minister's courtyard. There's big windows that look down into the thing and I was sitting there for quite a while, and I was really tired. I remember him saying, oh, I'll just be a minute, you can lay down. And I remember going into the minister's office and just laying down on the couch.

1:18:18.5

Brittany:

And then -

1:18:19.4

Angus:

So, sorry. He came back and said, I'll be a while, and you can -

1:18:22.8

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:18:22.9

Angus:

- go to the couch?

1:18:23.6

Brittany:

Yeah, I just, I remember him being like, oh, I'm not finished yet, just go, you can just lay down for a bit, I'll be there. And I was like, okay, that's, sure, whatever, finish whatever you need to do.

1:18:33.0

Angus:

But he was out of sight?

1:18:34.5

Brittany:

Yeah. I was -

1:18:35.1

Angus:

Possibly at his desk?

1:18:36.4

Brittany:

I think so. I think he was around the corner at his desk. I wasn't really cognizant -

1:18:39.4

Angus:

Yeah.

1:18:39.7

Brittany:

- sort of where he was. I was just sort of waiting for him to finish so I could leave and so we could catch the cab home.

1:18:45.5

Lisa:

Had he made any sort of romantic gestures to you at that point? Apart from helping you walk. So, there was a physical contact.

1:18:55.5

Brittany:

No, I always had a sneaking suspicion that maybe he thought I was cute, or kind of liked me a little bit. He'd go out of his way, sometimes, to help me out with certain things. Like, he was mean to me, but then at the same time, would sort of try and help me with certain work-related issues. And I thought maybe that was, maybe he just broadly thought I was cute. I don't know.

1:19:15.5

Brittany:

I, you just kind of get these, the sense of, every once in a while, of someone, so, I thought maybe he kind of liked me a little bit. But that, it didn't really factor in, it didn't really seem like an important thing, and it was just like an intuition-type thing.

1:19:31.1

Brittany:

And then, I was passed out and the next thing, when I finally came to, I was pinned down to the minister's couch. And I couldn't get up, and he had, his leg was on my thigh. Like, it was really, I remember, I was in quite a lot of pain because his leg was on my thigh, and he was on top of me. And at that point, he was assaulting me.

1:19:56.0

Brittany:

And, sorry.

1:20:03.7

Angus:

No, that's all right.

1:20:04.6

Lisa:

Okay? Do you want to -

1:20:04.9

Brittany:

Sorry.

1:20:05.0

Lisa:

- grab the tissues, just over there?

1:20:06.8

Angus:

Sure.

1:20:10.8

Brittany:

Thank you.

1:20:11.4

Lisa:

Was he saying anything to you?

1:20:13.6

Brittany:

No. When I came to, I was crying. I remember telling him to stop it, he wouldn't listen. And he got to the point where I kind of realised, I don't know how, I don't know how I've kind of contextualised it or realised it. But I realised that it had been going on for a little while because he was already about to be finished. I remember -

1:20:33.4

Lisa:

So, you were in pain?

1:20:34.7

Brittany:

I was in pain. I was in a lot of pain. He had pinned down my leg and I just remember my leg was in a lot of pain and I was in a lot of pain. And I couldn't get him off me and I was, I was really inebriated and I couldn't get him off me.

1:20:46.5

Lisa:

Were you saying no? Were you saying -

1:20:47.9

Brittany:

I was telling him to stop.

1:20:49.0

Lisa:

- stop. Right. So, you told him.

1:20:50.9

Brittany:

Yeah. And he finished. I remember he stopped, and he got up, and I couldn't get up. I physically couldn't get off that couch. And I think, when he realised I couldn't get off the couch, there was this weird panic moment where he looked at me. And then that's when he left. And after he left, I still couldn't get up, and I was just laying on that couch for a really long time, until I passed out again.

1:21:19.8

Brittany:

And that was kind of like, I don't know how long that was. But yeah, I kind of only sort of remember the last five minutes of it.

1:21:32.2

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:21:33.2

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:21:33.3

Angus:

But you, do you remember him, so you remember him looking at you?

1:21:38.0

Brittany:

I remember him raping me, yeah.

1:21:39.6

Angus:

But you remember him looking, after he'd finished?

1:21:43.6

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:21:42.8

Angus:

And then leaving?

1:21:43.0

Brittany:

And then leaving the, yeah.

1:21:45.5

Lisa:

Did he say anything?

1:21:49.7

Brittany:

I don't think so.

1:21:51.5

Lisa:

Did you say anything to him?

1:21:53.7

Brittany:

I think I was just crying at that point. I don't think I was saying anything anymore.

1:22:00.6

Angus:

Do you know if he used a condom?

1:22:03.1

Brittany:

No, he didn't. I remember I was worried about that. I bought a pregnancy test, I was really stressed. Yeah, but I was fine. Yeah.

1:22:16.7

Lisa:

So, if you were looking out into the parliamentary, or the Prime Minister's, courtyard.

1:22:20.7

Brittany:

Yes, I was sitting there for [1:22:21.9].

1:22:21.8

Lisa:

So, it was dark through all of that?

1:22:25.2

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah, very much so.

1:22:26.4

Lisa:

And were lights on in the office?

1:22:27.6

Angus:

Oh yeah.

1:22:28.2

Lisa:

Had they all been turned on?

1:22:30.2

Brittany:

No. Oh, maybe in the main office it was. In Minister Reynolds' office, at the couch, it was dark.

1:22:39.9

Lisa:

So dark but, it was dark, but you could still see his face and he could still see yours?

1:22:44.9

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah, I think maybe the outer lights in the broader office were on. But inside the actual, the minister's office, where it happened, it wasn't.

1:22:52.6

Lisa:

Right, okay.

1:22:53.8

Angus:

And do you remember, was there any reaction from him when you were asking him to stop it?

1:23:01.5

Brittany:

No. No. I think at that point, what I had sort of gathered was it had been going on for a little while. And I was kind of coming to, and he was almost finished, I guess, and so he was pretty in the midst of that. And so, he wasn't really concerned about me.

1:23:24.8

Lisa:

Although, by the sounds of things, his hope that he would finish before you'd wake up again.

1:23:32.0

Brittany:

That was kind of my impression. And I -

1:23:33.7

Lisa:

Which would explain if he was a bit panicked at the end.

1:23:37.6

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah. I've, on my phone, a photo of my leg. I was, because he had pinned me down and I'm, I was in quite a lot of pain. I think that's kind of what woke me, sort of snapped me out of it, or woke me up. I was in a lot of pain, the way that my leg was sort of caught up against the couch. He was putting a lot of pressure on it. So, I had this big bruise on my thigh.

1:23:59.3

Angus:

So, sort of like, kneeling on your leg?

1:24:01.2

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, because I was -

1:24:02.6

Lisa:

To pin you so that you wouldn't move.

1:24:03.8

Brittany:

- I was half, yeah, I was half pressed in the corner and, so, yeah, like, a lot of my thigh had this weird, big bruise on it on the basis of where it was positioned. Yeah, and I just -

1:24:18.0

Lisa:

I hate to ask -

1:24:19.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:24:19.7

Lisa:

- but I have to.

1:24:20.4

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, of course.

1:24:21.1

Lisa:

Have you got the photo there?

1:24:22.6

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, of course.

1:24:28.5

Lisa:

So, you took that when you were in the office, just when it happened, or a couple of days later?

1:24:34.8

Brittany:

Couple of days after.

1:24:35.4

Angus:

When the bruise appeared.

1:24:36.4

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:24:36.5

Brittany:

Yeah, it took a little bit.

1:24:39.0

Lisa:

And did you go to a doctor to have it looked at?

1:24:42.8

Brittany:

No, I didn't go to a doctor.

1:24:45.1

Angus:

So, after you did that pregnancy test, you were presumably clear?

1:24:56.2

Brittany:

Yep.

1:24:56.0

Angus:

Yep.

1:24:57.4

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, I was fine.

1:24:58.7

Angus:

And were you on any contraception?

1:25:01.3

Brittany:

No.

1:25:02.0

Angus:

Sorry, I know these are hideously private questions for me to ask.

1:25:04.3

Brittany:

No, it's fine, it's fine. I guess you can kind of see it in that photo, I've got a different one. But it's, it was just, it was like this weird, largescale bruise, it was on my thigh.

1:25:18.4

Angus:

Yeah, so that's like -

1:25:20.6

Brittany:

It was the whole leg, but it was, because it was really pressed -

1:25:23.5

Angus:

Because I can see the line there.

1:25:25.3

Brittany:

Yeah. And it wasn't like a deep purple, but it was just this weird -

1:25:29.5

Lisa:

Oh, right.

1:25:30.2

Brittany:

- pressure bruise. I don't know. I don't know, it was weird.

1:25:35.3

Angus:

And -

1:25:36.8

Lisa:

Oh, I see.

1:25:40.6

Angus:

And were there any other injuries?

1:25:44.0

Brittany:

No.

1:25:47.9

Lisa:

Sorry, I don't mean to look at your texts, but one just came up, saying, hey Britt, you okay, all good?

1:25:54.7

Brittany:

Who sent that?

1:25:56.0

Lisa:

I didn't even look at the -

1:25:56.5

Brittany:

Oh, that's okay. No, I've got it, I've got it.

1:25:57.8

Lisa:

Just, do people normally send you messages like that or would the fact that you were away from, could that be from somebody -

1:26:02.7

Brittany:

Maybe.

1:26:03.1

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:26:05.5

Lisa:

Yeah, I can see that. So, that would be -

1:26:09.5

Brittany:

I think he was -

1:26:09.5

Lisa:

- presumably his knee -

1:26:11.1

Brittany:

Yeah, on my thigh.

1:26:11.5

Lisa:

- and probably his shin.

1:26:13.8

Angus:

Shin.

1:26:13.5

Brittany:

Yeah, pushing down.

1:26:15.2

Lisa:

Yeah. Yeah.

1:26:17.4

Angus:

And you've got no idea how long that had been going on for?

1:26:19.8

Brittany:

Had been going on for. No.

1:26:22.1

Lisa:

But you were, presumably, the whole process was painful, sexually painful.

1:26:28.8

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah, very much so.

1:26:29.2

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:26:29.7

Brittany:

Yeah, I was, yeah. And that's sort of what I first sort of woke up to, realising that I was, it hurt, it really hurt. Like, he was on my leg and it was pinning me down in a painful way, and that was the first thing that came, I sort of came to with. And then, yeah. Yeah.

1:26:49.4

Angus:

And you said that you, when you woke up in the morning, your clothes were in a -

1:26:59.2

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:27:00.3

Angus:

Did you, were you aware at the time that, you know, clothes had been removed, or partly removed?

1:27:09.1

Brittany:

Yeah. So, I was wearing this white cocktail dress and it was up around my waist. It was dishevelled around the top, like, it was like my straps were half off. And when I first woke up, I don't know why, I hadn't fully connected to that memory. I just remember the first thing was when I heard that voice calling in, I just remember being panicked about being in the minister's office.

1:27:36.8

Brittany:

I didn't even think about the night before. The first thing, oh my gosh, I'm here still, and that was my first thought. I didn't even get to the next thing that had happened just before. But yeah, no, it was obvious that, yeah, I was undressed.

1:27:54.2

Lisa:

So, he'd removed your panties?

1:27:55.9

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:27:56.5

Lisa:

And -

1:27:57.2

Brittany:

Yeah. My dress was up -

1:27:58.5

Lisa:

- half of this and half of that.

1:28:01.0

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. All, my entire sort of from, yeah. I was exposed from the belly button down, essentially. Yeah.

1:28:10.2

Lisa:

So, just, sorry, just to go back.

1:28:12.7

Brittany:

Of course.

1:28:12.7

Lisa:

I just want to double-check. So, did anybody come in and see you looking like that?

1:28:19.7

Brittany:

I don't a hundred per cent know. But Chris Paine, who was the DLO, he had said that someone had come in during the night and seen it.

1:28:27.6

Lisa:

Okay. They must've seen you.

1:28:30.0

Brittany:

So, and this isn't uncommon -

1:28:31.1

Angus:

Because he's got a report that's gone to him -

1:28:33.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:28:33.7

Angus:

- from the security.

1:28:36.1

Brittany:

And this isn't uncommon. Like, this is a normal round of their security, is they go into ministerial offices, and they see if classified material's been left out on desks. And they give us these little parking tickets, essentially. Being like, overnight, you left a classified document open, and we get little tickets.

1:28:50.8

Angus:

Right.

1:28:51.4

Brittany:

So, this is like a normal thing that happens every night. And so -

1:28:54.6

Angus:

Wow.

1:28:55.4

Brittany:

Yeah, we get parking tickets for leaving documents out, that are official.

1:29:00.2

Lisa:

Sorry, Joe Aston lost his defamation. Two hundred and eighty K.

1:29:06.3

Angus:

Wow.

1:29:05.8

Lisa:

Pete just sent that through. Sorry.

1:29:09.1

Brittany:
No.

1:29:09.2

Lisa:
That's a good win, because Joe Aston had a, he had massive goes at me for years, and my husband, and then he did one almighty -

1:29:18.8

Angus:
Oh, yeah.

1:29:18.6

Lisa:
It was just -

1:29:19.1

Angus:
That was appalling.

1:29:19.8

Lisa:
- disgusting. He mostly went for Pete -

1:29:22.4

Angus:
Yeah, no, that was amazing.

1:29:22.5

Lisa:
- but I was collateral damage as well. So, sorry, that's a good moment. See, good people do win. Sorry to interrupt.

1:29:33.8

Brittany:
No, no, that's okay. I'm glad. He lives in LA anyway, he's barely connected to this world even though somehow, he pretends to be a part of it.

1:29:41.1

Lisa:
He's a disgusting human being. He's, I mean, you talk about -

1:29:44.2

Brittany:
A gossip columnist and proud, apparently.

1:29:46.9

Lisa:
Yeah, I know. Talk about people who are basically just with black souls. That's Joe Aston.

1:29:56.4

Brittany:

I know where he could get a really good job.

1:30:00.2

Lisa:

Sorry, please continue, I shouldn't have interrupted.

1:30:02.3

Brittany:

No, no, no. It's fine.

1:30:05.0

Angus:

So, when you've, how did you get home?

1:30:08.5

Brittany:

I caught an Uber. Yeah.

1:30:11.4

Angus:

Okay.

1:30:11.8

Brittany:

And I had to sort of, Linda Reynolds had this box of Goodwill that she wanted me to dump off and it was full of [1:30:18.8] and paddy things. So, I stole one of her [1:30:20.5] and paddy's shawl wool set, and put it over myself and I walked out, head down, avoided eye contact with security. Because that's where I came in and it's the only way in.

1:30:29.8

Lisa:

So, you saw somebody from security when you left?

1:30:32.7

Brittany:

Two people, yeah, there's always two. There's always two.

1:30:35.4

Angus:

You had to pass them?

1:30:36.5

Lisa:

Just outside the door?

1:30:38.0

Brittany:

Yeah, so, where I came in, like the airport security-type setup, you have to go out that way. When it's after hours. So, if it's not between seven am and eleven pm at night, they force you to go through that underground way.

1:30:51.2

Lisa:

So, did they say anything to you?

1:30:52.7

Brittany:

No. I didn't say anything to them, either.

1:30:55.1

Angus:

And did you take the shawl because you were in a cocktail dress or -

1:31:01.2

Brittany:

Yeah, it was a weird dress to be wearing overnight in Parliament, all of it was strange. But I just, I wanted to cover up. I don't know why, I just felt like I just needed to. I don't know.

1:31:11.0

Lisa:

You don't, no, have to question why.

1:31:12.9

Angus:

No, no.

1:31:13.8

Brittany:

Yeah, but I did. Yeah.

1:31:19.8

Angus:

And then when you went home, what did you do then?

1:31:26.4

Brittany:

I immediately ran into my roommate, who was entertaining guests, and she was like, oh, you've been out all night, and she thought it was, she thought my Tinder date, from the start of the day, had gone well.

1:31:37.2

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:31:38.9

Brittany:

Yeah. It had not. And I just said, I, yeah, eventually our event had moved to Parliament House, and she thought that was weird. And I just shut myself in my room for the rest of the day.

1:31:56.0

Angus:

Have you had trouble sleeping?

1:31:58.7

Brittany:

Personally? Since -

1:31:59.0

Angus:

Yeah.

1:31:59.4

Brittany:

Yeah, of course. Yeah, definitely.

1:32:01.5

Lisa:

Ever since?

1:32:02.2

Brittany:

Yeah, of course. Yeah, definitely.

1:32:05.1

Brittany:

I had panic attacks. It's not even, I don't remember the entire experience, but I just, I remember the weight. And I remember that feeling of being stuck under someone and not being able to get out. And every once in a while, usually I'm fine, but every once in a while, I'll connect with that panic, and that feeling of being trapped.

1:32:29.1

Brittany:

And it's like this weird sort of vein of panic and pain that every once in a while, I'll find, and I just have a panic attack.

1:32:39.0

Angus:

And what happens when you have that panic attack? How does it, is that completely internalised or is it, is it breathing?

1:32:48.8

Brittany:

It's breathing, and I just have to kind of go to an enclosed space and just sit with it. And breathe through it and it's fine. But I just, it's exacerbated by the fact that, for so long, I've been walking through that same parliamentary entrance every day. Leaving the same way, walking past the same office that I go to, it was just across the hall for so long.

1:33:12.6

Brittany:

And so, it was like this weird, like I just couldn't look at it. Every time I'd have to walk past it in the morning, I can't make eyes at it, it's this negative place for me. So -

1:33:23.8

Angus:

So, this is, is this going to, working in Cash's office, you're walking past the same place?

1:33:27.8

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, it's the same. It's, like, three doors down, so, I walk past every day.

1:33:37.1

Angus:

Has anyone asked you at work about being able to, you know, about the anxieties of working in this same situation?

1:33:50.7

Brittany:

After the Senate estimates stuff, I had a conversation with Cash, and I know she was trying to be sympathetic. But she's obviously been hardened by this culture for decades. And I said that it was difficult going through security every day. A place where they force me to take off my shoes every morning.

1:34:08.2

Brittany:

And yet, in the moment that I needed them to be security guards, they let me through. There were two [1:34:14.0] witnesses who saw me, inebriated, in a cocktail dress -

1:34:18.8

Lisa:

With a totally sober guy.

1:34:21.0

Brittany:

And just waved me through. And that, and I had that chat with her. I tried to have that talk with her, and essentially, the message I got back was it's just something you'll have to reconcile with. And -

1:34:32.8

Angus:

So, was that just a one-on-one chat that you had with her?

1:34:35.1

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, it was just a conversation we had. She was, to be, to her credit, no-one else has discussed it with me. No-one else will touch it, no-one else will talk about it.

1:34:44.0

Lisa:

Sorry, so, that was Cash?

1:34:45.3

Brittany:
Yeah, it was Cash.

1:34:45.8
Lisa:
Yeah, right.

1:34:47.0
Brittany:
No-one else will talk about it, ever. Like, it's like this weird taboo thing.

1:34:51.6
Angus:
How did that get, how did you two end up talking about that?

1:34:55.5
Brittany:
I think it was around the time when Bruce was harassing me on her social media accounts.

1:35:01.3
Angus:
Because he just knew you'd get that notification?

1:35:02.9
Brittany:
Yeah, yeah. He knew in staffer world that I was managing her accounts and so he'd like and unlike photos just to harass -

1:35:08.1
Angus:
Because you were managing the account.

1:35:08.7
Lisa:
Liked and unliked?

1:35:10.2
Brittany:
Yeah, so, you get little notifications every time. So, it was just this constant barrage for this weird, it wasn't, it didn't last very long. It was only like three weeks, but he'd unlike and unlike -

1:35:19.9
Lisa:
Is he still on Instagram?

1:35:21.9
Brittany:
Yeah, yeah, he's still on Instagram. He's not on my Instagram, and I've blocked him from the Cash account, but he's still on Instagram. He has a Twitter, he has a Facebook, he's fine.

1:35:28.5

Angus:
Yeah. And has -

1:35:32.8

Lisa:
We should take screenshots of all of his Instagrams.

1:35:36.1

Angus:
Yeah, yeah.

1:35:37.5

Lisa:
Because he'll delete his account, presumably, once this all happens.

1:35:42.7

Angus:
Yeah. How did Michaelia know that, become aware that he was doing this?

1:35:54.1

Brittany:
I told her. I had a bit of a breakdown one day, just saying that he was harassing me online, and that it was stressful.

1:36:01.0

Angus:
So, is that, was that a knock on the door, hey, Michaelia, just want to let you know?

1:36:04.4

Brittany:
I told my chief of staff first, and let him know, and then he made the boss aware. And at that point, apparently, I don't know how enforceable this is, but they stopped him from ever getting a lobbyist pass into Parliament House after that.

1:36:17.5

Angus:
Oh, okay.

1:36:18.0

Brittany:
Yeah. So, if he ever applied for a formal lobbyist pass, because they've got a separate colour, he would not get one. But -

1:36:27.1

Angus:
Oh, like a lobbyist colour?

1:36:29.3

Brittany:
Yeah, yeah.

1:36:28.6

Angus:

On a lanyard sort of thing.

1:36:29.3

Brittany:

Yeah, like a, so, like, the media people get a yellow pass, if you're a parliamentary staffer, you get a blue one, and the lobbyists, I think they get a green pass. So, they stopped him from ever getting a green pass. But he can still be signed in, from any of his friends, as a guest.

1:36:45.1

Angus:

Right.

1:36:45.7

Brittany:

So, it doesn't stop him from getting into the building but it just, it stops him in a professional context from getting in.

1:36:52.9

Angus:

Yeah.

1:36:53.3

Brittany:

And that's how that conversation with Cash started.

1:36:57.2

Angus:

So, Cash -

1:36:57.3

Lisa:

So, what's his Instagram name?

1:37:01.2

Brittany:

Bruce Lehrmann, I'd assume.

1:37:03.2

Lisa:

Oh, that's right, yeah. I'd forgotten his last name.

1:37:05.4

Brittany:

No, it's fine.

1:37:05.8

Lisa:

L-E-H-R-M-A-N-N?

1:37:07.8

Brittany:

Yeah, I think that's right.

1:37:08.5

Lisa:

There he is.

1:37:11.4

Angus:

Did -

1:37:12.2

Lisa:

Julie Bishop, oh, this account is private.

1:37:14.3

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, of course.

1:37:15.0

Angus:

Oh yeah, I looked up that. Yeah, it was private.

1:37:16.1

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, his staffers were all told, private, secret squirrel, WhatsApp, Signal, [1:37:22.3] anything up.

1:37:23.3

Lisa:

He follows me.

1:37:24.5

Brittany:

Of course he does.

1:37:30.4

Angus:

So, Michaelia said that this is something you'll have to reconcile?

1:37:36.5

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:37:37.4

Lisa:

That's, I mean, I'm glad that she was asking, but -

1:37:42.2

Brittany:

It's better than what I've had, to be honest.

1:37:44.2

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:37:44.4

Brittany:

At least she acknowledged that it happened.

1:37:46.5

Lisa:

But that's kind of, from one sister to another, this is the way we work here.

1:37:51.0

Angus:

Yeah.

1:37:53.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:37:57.6

Angus:

When was, when would that have been, roughly?

1:38:01.8

Brittany:

Probably the end of last year. Probably, like, September last year.

1:38:05.6

Angus:

Okay.

1:38:08.4

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:38:10.4

Angus:

And what's the Cash office like to work in?

1:38:16.1

Brittany:

You know, comparatively, compared to what I've had, good, normal, there was less alcohol there, which is nice. It's good, comparatively.

1:38:26.1

Lisa:

Alcohol's an issue in Canberra?

1:38:28.1

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah.

1:38:29.8

Lisa:

What about drugs?

1:38:31.9

Brittany:

I've never seen anyone take drugs in Parliament House, it's been alluded to quite a lot, but I've never seen it myself.

1:38:37.4

Lisa:

No.

1:38:39.0

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:38:38.8

Lisa:

And is Bruce normally a bit of a party boy?

1:38:44.6

Brittany:

I don't know. I really didn't know him that long before the assault took place. Like, I knew of him sort of for about three weeks before it happened. And then, he pretty much dropped off my radar, particularly after, obviously, afterwards. So, I don't, I can't speak to that.

1:38:58.7

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:39:01.1

Angus:

So, do you think, who's the chief of staff that you have now?

1:39:08.2

Brittany:

Daniel.

1:39:08.5

Angus:

That's Daniel Tie?

1:39:09.6

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah.

1:39:09.9

Angus:

Okay. So, do you think Daniel has your back a little bit more than perhaps -

1:39:18.5

Brittany:

Anyone else.

1:39:19.0

Angus:

- Fiona?

1:39:19.9

Brittany:

Oh, definitely.

1:39:20.4

Angus:

You know, those kind of people?

1:39:21.1

Brittany:

Definitely.

1:39:21.9

Angus:

So, Daniel is -

1:39:23.1

Brittany:

Has a soul.

1:39:24.2

Angus:

He has a soul, right. Low bar.

1:39:26.4

Brittany:

It's a low bar.

1:39:27.5

Angus:

Low bar.

1:39:28.8

Lisa:

He won't last long.

1:39:29.6

Angus:

Yeah.

1:39:30.9

Brittany:

And he's been around for a surprising long time. His wife works in the Prime Minister's Office as well. So, this is, it's a very small pool of people, and they're all very, deeply interconnected. Like, everyone's, it's this weird, tight-knit family thing. It's very strange.

1:39:46.6

Lisa:

Well, but if you don't operate on a normal, human level, of course you're going to be attracted to other people who also don't operate on a normal, human level. And you all understand the unspoken rules -

1:39:59.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:39:59.7

Lisa:

- of living in that place.

1:40:00.8

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:40:06.1

Angus:

Right. I'm just wondering about the Michaelia -

1:40:15.2

Brittany:

I know.

1:40:16.7

Angus:

- office and that, about whether they're the ones that, I'm just wondering about any of those people. About any who might be able to be approached. But there are really none, because it's just going to -

1:40:36.3

Brittany:

No.

1:40:36.7

Angus:

- kill the whole thing up, isn't it.

1:40:38.1

Brittany:

Yeah, no. There's no way. None, once again. When you're inside the tent, it's this team mentality. It's kind of like, I'd liken it to State of Origin. As soon as you're in Queensland, you're a maroon, and it's, if you're, you're the Blues, you're a journalist, we're not talking to you.

1:40:53.8

Angus:

Yep.

1:40:54.8

Brittany:

Yeah. It's, yeah.

1:40:58.9

Angus:

Okay.

1:41:00.9

Lisa:

Do you want to text David?

1:41:02.1

Brittany:

Yes.

1:41:02.3

Angus:

Yeah.

1:41:03.5

Lisa:

Poor soul, wandering the corridors.

1:41:07.1

Brittany:

He's probably found a G and T, he'll be okay.

1:41:11.4

Lisa:

So, what -

1:41:12.0

Brittany:

Oh, god, I've had two texts. Okay, for example, so this is my senior media advisor and my chief and staff. Just today, because I took a personal leave day.

1:41:20.2

Lisa:

One after the other.

1:41:21.3

Brittany:

Yep.

1:41:23.1

Lisa;

Hi Brittany, is everything okay? Cheers, Daniel. Hey Britt, how are you going, all good? And they're within five minutes of each other.

1:41:30.2

Brittany:

I took one day off. One day. It's so weird.

1:41:35.9

Angus:

Yeah, that's a lot of care for -

1:41:37.1

Lisa:

Well, it's kind of what you expect, isn't it? Because you know the way they work.

1:41:41.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:41:41.9

Lisa:

I mean, you pretty much predicted that before.

1:41:44.9

Brittany:

I knew. It happens every day. It happens every time, any time I'm sick, it's the same thing.

1:41:50.9

Lisa:

So, just going back to the whole thing with the phone. Do you think they've got some kind of monitor on you at the moment?

1:42:01.9

Brittany:

Right now? I don't know. I don't know.

1:42:05.2

Lisa:

Do you think they did?

1:42:06.0

Brittany:

I think they've got capability to do it. I know they can do it. I know they can remote wipe phones, I know that's not unheard of. I don't know they've done it to me. I feel like they'd be way more nervous about me, if they thought I was speaking about it.

1:42:23.0

Lisa:

I just, the wiping your phone, I mean, it's got alarm bells written all over it for me. So, when can you get to Vodafone? Because I think we need to know that before we do the interview.

1:42:35.9

Brittany:

I can get there tomorrow, I guess.

1:42:38.4

Lisa:

That'd be great.

1:42:38.1

Brittany:

Yep.

1:42:38.2

Angus:

Yeah.

1:42:39.3

Brittany:

Yeah. I don't know what their turnaround time, but I can try to make it happen ASAP. Yeah, I've got the device, it's just tone dead now.

1:42:48.0

Lisa:

Hm.

1:42:48.8

Brittany:

Yeah. But it's like a brand new one, I got it like, four months ago.

1:42:53.0

Lisa:

Yeah, it was yours, you bought it.

1:42:53.9

Brittany:

Yeah, I know.

1:42:56.0

Lisa:

And so, how long after you bought it did they put their software on?

1:43:02.3

Brittany:

Inside three weeks, because I needed to get my staff emails and that's the only way I can have staff emails.

1:43:12.4

Lisa:

What do you think about on the last day, Brittany saying, can someone please tell me what happened to my phone? Because all of the data got wiped and that includes all my photos.

1:43:31.7

Angus:

Where -

1:43:32.0

Lisa:

Just to see what their response is. Because we won't get a response from them, if we ask the question. But it might be interesting if you ask.

1:43:40.7

Brittany:

What's the validity of me recording any of these conversations, though? Like, if, say, if I did have that conversation, I would feel safer having it recorded. But can I record those sort of conversations?

1:43:50.9

Lisa:

You're better on that legal stuff than me.

1:43:54.4

Angus:

You can't record stuff in New South Wales unless the person knows.

1:43:57.9

Lisa:

Oh, you're in Canberra.

1:43:59.5

Angus:

You can in Canberra. New South Wales is in the New South Wales Listening Devices Act 1984.

1:44:05.2

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:44:06.0

Angus:

Whereas everywhere else is okay. You can somehow get away with, but then again, Canberra operates, and Parliament House operates -

1:44:12.8

Brittany:

Yeah, a whole different bubble.

1:44:13.2

Angus:

- in a wacky, wacky world. So, that may be different to ACT rules as well.

1:44:20.7

Brittany:

Even off the record, just for corroboration's sake, I'd be willing to record something of that conversation, if that happens. Yeah.

1:44:31.3

Angus:

Yeah.

[Over speaking 1:44:31.5]

1:44:31.7

Lisa:

It may mean we can't use it.

1:44:32.9

Brittany:

No, no, but it's just -

1:44:33.5

Lisa:

But this is just for your own -

1:44:34.8

Brittany:

Yeah, exactly. And just sort of, for your background, I guess.

1:44:37.6

Angus:

Yeah.

1:44:38.0

Brittany:

As like a sort of, a sounding board about what it's like. I'd do that for you.

1:44:44.1

Lisa:

The other thing is, I could ask you if it ends up being significant, did you ask where all your photos and everything were, what did they say? And you can paraphrase what they said.

1:44:56.4

Brittany:

Yep.

1:44:56.9

Angus:

Mm-hm.

1:45:00.2

Brittany:

They're so scary.

1:45:01.3

Lisa:

Because there, I'm very aware that, also, on that last day, you might feel a bit like you're jumping at shadows and things can end up swirling around in your head.

1:45:10.8

Brittany:

Definitely, yeah. Absolutely.

1:45:11.4

Lisa:

Your memory might not be as clear as it otherwise would. Because you know what's coming, they don't, but you know what's coming. So, you might be a bit foggy headed.

1:45:25.1

Brittany:

Yeah. But I assume, with stuff like this, I just, I don't know. There's a level of, they're concerned. I take a singular day off and they're freaking out. Like, it's weird, right? Is this weird?

1:45:37.7

Lisa:

Look, I really like you, Brittany, but -

1:45:41.0

Brittany:

You don't know me.

1:45:41.3

Lisa:

I don't want you to be deluded that they care about you.

1:45:44.4

Brittany:

No, they don't care, they don't care.

1:45:45.8

Angus:

Given no-one's cared previously.

1:45:46.1

Lisa:

They only care about the election. They currently care about the election, and you could bring it undone for them. That's what they care about. Because all of their other actions don't indicate that you're anything other than a possible problem.

1:46:01.1

Brittany:

Yeah, no, I understand that.

1:46:03.8

Lisa:

You'll find the real people once you get out of Canberra. Apart from this lovely man, who clearly adores you.

1:46:14.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:46:16.0

Angus:

So, Mum's in the Gold Coast?

1:46:17.8

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. So, my family have a farm in Byron Bay, which is where I'll eventually hunker down.

1:46:23.4

Angus:

Right.

1:46:23.5

Lisa:

Oh, great.

1:46:24.4

Angus:

Nice.

1:46:25.1

Brittany:

Yeah, it's gorgeous. They used to be banana farmers.

1:46:26.0

Lisa:

Well done, Mum.

1:46:27.1

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah. They used to be banana farmers, they sold off most of it, but they kept like a twenty-acre hobby farm. So, I'll hide there.

1:46:32.5

Lisa:

Where in Byron is it?

1:46:34.0

Brittany:

Ah, Ewingsdale. So, it's opposite the other side. So, it's gorgeous, Byron Headland, I had horses there when I was a kid.

1:46:38.3

Lisa:
I love it there.

1:46:39.2
Brittany:
It's gorgeous.

1:46:39.7
Angus:
Oh, wow.

1:46:40.3
Brittany:
Yeah. My dad's going to build a, now that he knows everything, he's like, I'm going to build you a house. I was like, all right, thanks Dad. Cheers. Yeah, so, I'll be fine.

1:46:50.2
Angus:
Do they know that -

1:46:51.9
Brittany:
This?

1:46:52.0
Angus:
- you're talking to us?

1:46:53.7
Brittany:
My dad does. My extended, my grandma and grandpa and stuff, don't, but my dad does. Yeah.

1:46:58.9
Angus:
And what's he think?

1:47:00.4
Brittany:
He's just scared. I think he's just nervous about, that they'll, no offence anyone, broadly. I think he's just nervous that they'll run my name into the dirt. That I'll be unemployable forever and, you know, I'm broadly prepared for unemployable in my scope of qualifications. But yeah, I think he's just worried.

1:47:22.8
Lisa:
Do Canberra know that your parents are up in that direction?

1:47:28.6
Brittany:
That my parents are up north?

1:47:31.0

Lisa:

In Byron?

1:47:30.9

Brittany:

Yep. Yeah, they do, they know that. Yeah.

1:47:32.8

Lisa:

But there's nothing they could do.

1:47:34.5

Brittany:

No, no.

1:47:35.5

Angus:

No, no, no.

1:47:37.5

Brittany:

No, I don't think -

1:47:38.4

Lisa:

They'll already be in enough shit to want to make life any more difficult for you.

1:47:45.8

Brittany:

Hm, yeah. I'm just, I'm cognizant that it's a part of them that have already war gamed worse case scenarios for this, years ahead of time. So, I'm sure they'll already have a dirt unit. So, for example, Ben Dillaway, obviously, was someone who I dated, who used to be in one of my offices. So, he was, he worked in my office and I dated him.

1:48:09.3

Angus:

Whose office was that?

1:48:10.9

Brittany:

Steven Ciobo's.

1:48:11.3

Angus:

Ciobo's? Yeah.

1:48:12.2

Brittany:

So, I'm sure that'll be something they bring up. David is in the process of being divorced, but he is not yet divorced. I'm sure they'll bring that up. Like, it's just things like that that I'm sure they'll bring

up and feed to people and sort of discredit me as a person. And I'm cognizant of that, but I know that that's the way they'll operate.

1:48:36.1

Brittany:

And they'll drip dry, they'll go to Bolt, who's gross and no-one cares about, but they'll go to people like Bolt, or Credlin. And they'll get them to run that line. They can.

1:48:48.8

Lisa:

I think at the moment they need to be a little bit careful. I don't think it'll be -

1:48:53.7

Brittany:

The easiest way for them to discredit the story is to discredit me as a person.

1:48:58.5

Lisa:

I don't think it's as easy to discredit women these days, as it once was.

1:49:03.1

Angus:

No.

1:49:03.8

Lisa:

Do you?

1:49:04.3

Angus:

No, I don't.

1:49:06.8

Lisa:

I mean, I genuinely think that they're going to have to be super careful, leading into an election, because we might have a women problem again.

1:49:16.3

Angus:

Yeah. And then it's not Monica Lewinsky, where victim-blaming was the way it worked. Like, victim-blaming is, and when victim-blaming happens, it's called out very loudly now. So, I think it would need to be dealt with, but under a very protective kind of tone.

1:49:40.2

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:49:40.7

Lisa:

Are there any female MPs who've now left office who you think could speak to this? I mean, Julia Banks is an obvious one.

1:49:53.5

Brittany:
I mean -

1:49:54.6

Lisa:
Sudmalis, where's she?

1:49:58.5

Lisa:
Is she still in parliament? She's gone.

1:50:00.1

Brittany:
I don't think so, no, she's gone.

1:50:01.0

Angus:
No, she left.

1:50:02.6

Lisa:
Well, she was the one that, one of the ones that spoke out.

1:50:06.1

Angus:
Yeah.

1:50:06.2

Lisa:
I can't remember what happened to her.

1:50:09.3

Angus:
Yeah, I think she just tapped out before the last election, wasn't it?

1:50:15.7

Brittany:
Yeah.

1:50:16.2

Angus:
Yeah.

1:50:18.9

Lisa:
And Julie's a possibility?

1:50:21.7

Angus:

Banks?

1:50:22.7

Lisa:

No, Julie Bishop.

1:50:23.4

Angus:

Bishop, yeah.

1:50:26.6

Lisa:

The only problem with Julie is, do we let her know that we're doing this or do we just -

1:50:34.5

Angus:

No.

1:50:35.0

Lisa:

- run great grabs of her, which, because she wanted to up her price on the corporate speaking circuit. So, in that period before Covid, she was making, like, forty grand a corporate speech to high level banks and all the big corporations. And the one topic they wanted her to talk about was how women need to be lifted up.

1:51:02.2

Lisa:

So, I mean, she shat all over the Liberal Party at a *Woman's Weekly* Women of the Future Awards. I've seen her give the same speech about four times, and she always talks about the same stuff. So, if we worry that Julie will not play ball with us, then we just need to get those grabs. That's really what we need.

1:51:24.0

Lisa:

Because that's when we got -

1:51:24.9

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:51:25.2

Lisa:

- the truthful Julie. Every other time she was asked to speak for the sisterhood, when it didn't work for her financially, she wouldn't do it. And I worry that she will get into someone's ear in the Liberal Party.

1:51:37.8

Brittany:

So, her former senior advisor was this lady named Lauren Gianoli.

1:51:42.1

Lisa:
I know Lauren. Ex-Channel Nine.

1:51:43.9

Brittany:
Yeah. So, she then worked for Linda Reynolds during this period of time, and now she works at PMO as one of the senior press secs. I don't know if she knows, I assume she does, but she's now in PMO. She was in Linda Reynolds' office when *The Canberra Times* article came up. I broadly assume that she knows.

1:52:02.7

Lisa:
Right. But she's not going to talk.

1:52:04.8

Brittany:
God, no. No, she's one of the top three in PMO now.

1:52:08.8

Lisa:
Right.

1:52:08.8

Brittany:
She's one of their spinners. Yeah.

1:52:09.8

Angus:
She's indoctrinated.

1:52:11.1

Lisa:
I'm really -

1:52:11.2

Brittany:
Yeah, yeah, she's a part of it.

1:52:12.2

Angus:
Yeah.

1:52:12.2

Lisa:
I really liked her as a reporter. She was very good at her job.

1:52:16.0

Brittany:
She's very good at her job still.

1:52:17.4

Lisa:

Yeah. Hm. Which makes me sad. Because they're two very different talents that she's proven to be good at.

1:52:25.7

Angus:

Yeah.

1:52:28.1

Brittany:

But yeah, just be careful with Julie.

1:52:29.4

Lisa:

Yeah. Yeah, so, for that reason, let's just get grabs of Julie Bishop -

1:52:33.6

Angus:

Look, I mean I -

1:52:34.2

Lisa:

- talking about the women problem in the -

1:52:36.1

Angus:

My feeling is that, is that we see what we're able to air with your story, without adding any complexities to it. Because there's, we've already got -

1:52:48.9

Brittany:

A tonne of weirdness.

1:52:49.6

Angus:

We've already got a women problem, Banks, Bishop, we've got those things that've already been said. And said around that time, that we can use as a historical reference. And miraculous win and here we go, continuing on, as we were before, has anything changed. Clearly not.

1:53:18.3

Brittany:

Well, the best is the plausible deniability of Scott Morrison, post *Four Corners*, when he said that that was a Turnbull Government issue. And that's sort of what sparked my, I was like, fuck you.

1:53:30.3

Lisa:

Yeah. Very much so. This one was under his watch.

1:53:34.4

Brittany:

Yeah, it was his team.

1:53:35.5

Lisa:

Yep.

1:53:36.4

Angus:

That was very strange. That was in, like, the PM's courtyard.

1:53:40.3

Brittany:

Yeah, with Anne Ruston.

1:53:41.9

Angus:

With Anne Ruston?

1:53:42.4

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah.

1:53:42.6

Angus:

Of course.

1:53:42.9

Brittany:

That [1:53:43.1].

1:53:43.2

Angus:

Of course, it was that one.

1:53:44.2

Brittany:

Yeah. Yeah, it was that one. Yeah.

1:53:50.1

Angus:

So, he was saying that -

1:53:53.5

Brittany:

That it was sort of dealt and managed under the Turnbull era, he's promoted more women to Cabinet than ever any previous Liberal governments. Essentially, that it's dealt with.

1:54:08.0

Angus:

Yeah, wow, I don't know how that answers that question. By saying that I've put more women in these positions, how that answers the question.

1:54:14.9

Brittany:

He's very good at placating.

1:54:16.3

Angus:

Yeah. That's an amazingly -

1:54:17.8

Brittany:

You can tell -

1:54:18.6

Angus:

- terrible answer to a totally different question.

1:54:21.5

Brittany:

Everyone accepted it, though. It's fine, everyone accepted it. It worked.

1:54:26.4

Angus:

Yeah. Yeah, that's really, really strange.

1:54:35.2

Angus:

Yeah, I, yeah, my feeling is that you don't want to, like, if there's a follow-up story that we do. Like, we tell the story of it, in however many bits or on one piece, or whatever. And then, follow-ups we can do with other people.

1:54:53.0

Brittany:

Yep.

1:54:53.7

Angus:

But I think we're, we don't want to diminish -

1:54:55.9

Brittany:

Yeah. And I think Sam felt kind of a little bit overwhelmed as well. I think, in her mind, she was like, there are two parts to this. And I was like, that feels like a you problem and a me problem, I don't know how you're going to do this. But you go. So, yeah, maybe talk to Sam, because I don't know how she's approaching it, either.

1:55:12.2

Angus:

Yeah. No, that's fine.

1:55:13.3

Brittany:

Yeah.

1:55:14.6

Lisa:

So, when she said to you, there's two parts to this, did she mean in terms of what Sam's got and what we've got?

1:55:21.0

Brittany:

No, no, in terms of how she, in her mind, there are two parts to the story. There's the incident, but then there's the cover-up. And so, in her mind, that's, and how she's breaking that down. But I don't know.

1:55:31.3

Lisa:

In the end, they're inextricably linked.

1:55:33.0

Brittany:

Linked. Yeah.

1:55:36.7

Lisa:

Yep. It's, I mean, you haven't been cared for, and the issue hasn't been addressed. And they may try and turn it on you, in terms of, well, we gave her all the pathways to do that, but the problem is the power imbalance. And the, you'll lose your job if you go down that pathway. But we can keep you nice and safe and warm and dry if you don't go down that pathway.

1:56:08.9

Brittany:

Yeah. I was twenty-four, I mean, I was a baby, I didn't know what I was doing.

1:56:14.8

Lisa:

You just went out for drinks and back to the safest building in Australia.

1:56:21.6

Brittany:

Big cameras, eight visible ones.

1:56:27.7

Lisa:

And he was a rising star in the Liberal Party.

1:56:31.8

Brittany:

Yeah. He'd worked for Reynolds for years and then, McKenzie and then Brandis before that. He'd been around the block.

1:56:37.7

Angus:

What do you make of when Fiona said that he told her that he hadn't been drinking?

1:56:51.0

Brittany:

It's kind of grotesque. But I think about it, that he was actively able to perform. He was physically able to have sex with me. So, I think he couldn't have been that inebriated on the basis that he physically was capable.

1:57:07.6

Angus:

Yeah. But he, I mean, he wasn't drinking soda water, that was obvious, or going, oh no, you said he was buying rounds.

1:57:13.7

Brittany:

He was. He was buying me drinks, and I remember thinking it was like a, I don't know, I just remember thinking that it was a nice, maybe he stopped hating me. I was kind of grateful, I thought, maybe, oh, I'd done good, I invited him to meet Defence Industry stakeholders.

1:57:28.1

Lisa:

See, I totally get that.

1:57:29.4

Angus:

Yeah, totally, yeah.

[Over speaking 1:57:30.1]

1:57:30.8

Lisa:

- that thing of feeling intimidated by people and, after getting hit on the nose consistently, it's like a dog. You hit them on the nose often enough, that when you give them a treat, they're incredibly grateful. And you sort of drop the memory of the bad treatment because, finally, there's some good treatment.

1:57:50.9

Angus:

Hm.

1:57:51.1

Brittany:

Yeah. I don't know, I just thought, I was like, okay, yeah, okay, he just wanted to sort of assert his dominance in the Defence Industry space. And now he's fine and now it's fine. Yeah. And that's sort of what I associated that with.

1:58:04.8

Lisa:

And I suppose, you would've felt, as a result, a bit like, oh, I might almost be in the club now. I might be accepted.

1:58:13.5

Brittany:

You kind of, you indoctrinate yourself into a level of the club. Like, I worked for so long, trying to get accepted into the little Steven Ciobo little group. But each ministerial office is its own club. And then, I'd barely got into Linda Reynolds' office, so I was just so desperate and so wanting to be accepted into her team and her office.

1:58:38.0

Brittany:

Because I'd seen three quarters of my staff, like, my former colleagues, be fired the week before. So, I was just grateful.

1:58:46.7

Lisa:

[1:58:46.8] more intimidating.

1:58:48.1

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah, they could just cut and all these people were gone. So, I was just kind of grateful to still be there.

1:58:55.0

Angus:

It is such a weird place to work.

1:58:56.8

Brittany:

It's so weird, right? Thank you. This is very validating.

1:58:58.8

Lisa:

Have you worked there?

1:58:59.8

Angus:

No. No, I had -

1:59:03.3

Lisa:

Just dealt with everybody when you were producing breakfast radio?

1:59:07.2

Angus:

Yeah. And, right after that, I got a call when Rudd got in, Lachlan Harris called me up and offered me a job.

1:59:16.8

Lisa:

I bet he did.

1:59:18.7

Angus:

And luckily, I'd just accepted a, that was the only time I ever considered it. And I was like, oh, like, because it was a compliment. I was kind of like, oh that's nice, I've never been offered a job without asking. This has never happened before. But I think I'd just got that job with Denton.

1:59:38.3

Lisa:

Oh, of course.

1:59:38.7

Angus:

I think I'd then set that up for the next year.

1:59:40.7

Lisa:

Yeah.

1:59:41.2

Angus:

So, that's when Pete was leaving and I was leaving at the end of oh seven.

1:59:45.1

Lisa:

So, Angus and I used to work together when Angus produced Mike Carlton on 2UE Breakfast with my husband, Peter Fitzsimmons.

1:59:56.1

Angus:

Yeah.

1:59:56.5

Brittany:

Small world.

1:59:56.7

Lisa:

So, they worked together and I used to fill in for Pete every so often because it was before I was hosting the *Today Show*.

2:00:02.8

Angus:

And Peter used to write too many books, still does.

2:00:05.1

Lisa:

Yeah. And whenever he was in a position where he couldn't meet his commitment, I'd go and work with Mike. And bizarrely enough, Angus replaced, or was 2IC, to the executive producer whose name was Tom Malone. And Tom left 2UE Breakfast to go and be the executive producer of *Today Show*, and then, shortly after -

2:00:27.5

Brittany:
So strange.

2:00:28.3

Lisa:
- that, he got me across to host *Today Show*. So, we've got this small little tribe.

2:00:33.7

Angus:
Yeah, ridiculously small world.

2:00:35.2

Lisa:
Yep. A very trusted tribe.

2:00:38.2

Brittany:
Wow.

2:00:38.5

Angus:
Yeah.

2:00:39.0

Brittany:
Must be a nice version of Canberra.

2:00:39.0

Lisa:
Over a long period of time.

2:00:40.2

Brittany:
I love it. It's all connected.

2:00:42.8

Lisa:
But these are good people, with morals and principles and a code of, if you turn into a dickhead, I'm going to tell you.

2:00:49.5

Angus:
Oh, totally.

2:00:54.3

Lisa:
Have we lost David?

2:00:55.2

Brittany:
No, I, sorry, we started talking about things again and I didn't message him.

2:01:02.1

Lisa:

I was thinking, the poor guy's got bailed up by somebody or -

2:01:05.2

Brittany:

No, he's fine.

2:01:06.6

Angus:

Hopefully, he's doing a loop, he hasn't just sort of, yeah, now made it to Haverfield.

2:01:12.0

Lisa:

Has David ever lived in Sydney? I didn't think he has.

2:01:14.4

Brittany:

He did a short stint in the Sydney Sky Bureau for a little while.

2:01:18.7

Lisa:

Ah, right. Which is how he knows Mark so well, on a personal level.

2:01:23.3

Brittany:

Oh, the joy. I don't know how he's managed it.

2:01:27.2

Lisa:

Did you watch Paul Murray's first night back on Sunday?

2:01:30.8

Brittany:

No.

2:01:30.8

Angus:

No.

2:01:31.9

Lisa:

I was -

2:01:32.6

Brittany:

Good for you.

2:01:33.1

Lisa:

- hanging out just to see what he was going to do with that photo in the background with Trump. That pathetic picture with Scott Morrison and Trump in the middle, and Paul Murray going -

2:01:45.1

Brittany:

Ugh.

2:01:45.8

Lisa:

And it was gone. So, he comes back from something like five weeks off, the insurrection has happened, conclusively, Trump has lost. Biden has been inaugurated, and he comes back and was talking something about water licences in New South Wales.

2:02:05.5

Brittany:

Deeply relevant.

2:02:06.7

Lisa:

And he was half an hour in, and he said, now, I suppose you guys are wondering what I've done with my photo with Trump. Just in case you don't know it, here's just a reminder, and he sort of, he said, don't panic, anyone. I haven't removed it, it's still going to be here on the set. I'm sitting home thinking, I don't really know that anybody's panicking right now.

2:02:29.2

Angus:

Wow.

2:02:29.2

Lisa:

And he said, so, what we're going to do with that really expensive, important real estate on the telly, as he always calls it. Is we're going to have photos of you from now on. If you've got a community group or, I don't want to know if you've got a business, but if you think there's someone who should be championed, that important real estate there is going to be yours.

2:02:51.2

Lisa:

It's just like, ugh, Paul, you're so embarrassing and you don't know it.

2:02:55.8

Angus:

No.

2:02:58.0

Lisa:

And he said, and don't worry everyone, we're still team Trump here at Sky.

2:03:02.7

Brittany:

Fantastic.

2:03:03.7

Lisa:

It's just like, wow.

2:03:05.6

Brittany:

The Libs love him, though. They all love him.

2:03:07.3

Lisa:

I know they do.

2:03:07.7

Brittany:

He is number one, he is revered.

2:03:08.9

Lisa:

Because he sucks up to all of them, he just wants -

2:03:11.7

Brittany:

Revered.

2:03:12.3

Lisa:

- all of their numbers in their phones, and for him, that's a win. So, he can go and -

2:03:17.6

Brittany:

It's deeply sad.

2:03:17.9

Lisa:

- sit in the courtyard with Mathias Cormann and smoke a cigar.

2:03:21.0

Brittany:

We're all proud.

2:03:21.7

Lisa:

Yep.

2:03:22.1

David:

Did you hear what my mum said?

2:03:24.5

Brittany:

Yes.

2:03:26.3

David:

My mum thinks it might be good for Britt if we do stay the night -

2:03:29.2

Brittany:

Probably, yeah.

2:03:30.3

- if that's okay. There's a -

2:03:30.6

Angus:

Sure.

2:03:30.8

David:

- seven-thirty-five flight out. I don't know if that -

2:03:33.1

Angus:

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I can get it changed.

2:03:34.5

Brittany:

Oh, really?

2:03:35.0

Angus:

Yeah, yeah, of course.

2:03:35.6

Lisa:

That's nice of your mum.

2:03:36.4

David:

Mum goes, I think it'd be really -

2:03:37.1

Brittany:

Is she okay?

2:03:37.7

David:

She's fine. She's like, oh, I'd like to hang out with the cat alone. It'd be really good for Britt if she stays.

2:03:43.7

Brittany:

Oh.

2:03:43.4

Angus:

So, seven-thirty-five am flight tomorrow morning?

2:03:45.7

David:

Yeah.

2:03:46.0

Angus:

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I can get that changed.

2:03:47.6

Brittany:

You sure?

2:03:48.0

David:

Thank you.

2:03:48.1

Angus:

Yep.

2:03:48.3

Lisa:

It's funny. When I walked into the bathroom just before, I was about to call out. You two were talking and I was about to say, gee, it's a pity you can't make use of this hotel room.

2:03:56.5

David:

It's nice.

2:03:57.0

Brittany:

It's lovely.

2:03:57.9

David:

I also spoke to my counsellor and he said that if you go through that lady that I gave you.

2:04:02.7

Brittany:

Yeah.

2:04:03.2

David:

It's free, through ACT Victims of Crime. They pay for it.

2:04:07.8

Brittany:

Okay.

2:04:08.3

Angus:

Yeah, I was actually going to suggest that too. I had that down. Because, yeah, the EAP's, those, good ones, they don't have to be for you. Your entire family can use it.

2:04:19.6

Brittany:

Okay.

2:04:20.5

Angus:

So, yeah, or your partner or anything like that.

2:04:22.9

David:

And she's a trained -

2:04:24.7

Brittany:

Real?

2:04:25.3

David:

She's dealt with victims of sexual assault for years. So -

2:04:28.6

Brittany:

Okay. Well, I'll give her a buzz after this.

2:04:30.1

David:

No pressure.

2:04:31.9

Lisa:

Oh, that's great.

2:04:32.7

Angus:

Good thinking.

2:04:33.6

Lisa:

Yeah.

2:04:35.0

Angus:
Yeah.

2:04:34.8

David:
I was just bored downstairs.

2:04:37.4

Lisa:
Sorry, we were meant to text you about fifteen minutes ago.

2:04:39.5

David:
Oh no, that's fine.

2:04:39.8

Brittany:
Yeah, yeah. Sorry.

2:04:41.4

Lisa:
Didn't get around to it. Well, that's good, I'm glad that you can stay here and just enjoy the room and go out for a walk, get some fresh air. You're okay on that point, but you might want to go for a walk.

2:04:51.6

David:
Honestly, it's not nice outside, but you'll be fine.

2:04:54.3

Lisa:
And the water's just over the other side.

2:04:57.3

Brittany:
Yeah, we were -

2:04:57.7

Lisa:
Darling Harbour.

2:04:58.4

Brittany:
Daniel and Guy both messaged me in this period of time.

2:05:01.3

David:
Oh, saying what?

2:05:01.7

Brittany:

Yeah.

2:05:02.8

David:

Just [2:05:03.1] -

2:05:03.0

Brittany:

Checking in.

2:05:03.8

David:

Just checking in?

2:05:04.4

Brittany:

Just checking in.

2:05:05.4

Lisa:

How are you going?

2:05:06.2

David:

You'll get a text from Cash soon.

2:05:08.5

Brittany:

Oh my god.

2:05:09.1

David:

Hope you're well. Five exclamation marks.

2:05:12.6

Angus:

Plenty of nice places to have dinner around here. There's a place called Blue Dragon, that's just down the road. It's great. And the gelato place here, there's a Messina Gelato -

2:05:26.4

Brittany:

That sounds good, yeah.

2:05:27.2

Angus:

In the Star, which is -

2:05:29.3

Lisa:

What more could you want -

2:05:29.0

Angus:

- awesome.

2:05:29.1

Lisa:

- in life?

2:05:30.4

Angus:

Seriously, the greatest gelato ever.

2:05:32.4

David:

We are planning on coming to Sydney, in like, six months, so that's nice.

2:05:35.9

Brittany:

One day. I'm a great waitress.

2:05:37.2

David:

Plenty of restaurants.

2:05:39.1

Brittany:

You're so mean. I had a future.

2:05:43.6

Angus:

Traffic's pretty crumby in the morning.

2:05:45.1

Brittany:

It's fine. We'll leave early.

2:05:45.8

Angus:

At the moment. Like, I found coming -

2:05:47.4

Lisa:

Oh, is it?

2:05:48.1

Angus:

Yeah, I found coming in today, I'm like, holy crap, I'm not going to make it. And I left with plenty of time.

2:05:53.9

Lisa:

Oh, that's interesting.

2:05:55.0

Angus:

Because no-one, like, they have, I just discovered this when we did that story on those bus drivers. No-one's getting buses, but they have to put on more buses, because people don't want to be on crowded buses.

2:06:06.1

Lisa:

Yep.

2:06:06.0

Angus:

So, there's more buses, and everyone's driving their cars. So, the roads are chockers, even though not many people are actually going into work.

2:06:13.1

Lisa:

Tomorrow probably won't be as bad as Friday, because Friday all the kids go back to school.

2:06:20.0

Angus:

Yeah, true. Yeah, it should still be okay.

2:06:22.0

Lisa:

Yeah.

2:06:23.3

Angus:

But it's not far from here to the airport, because you go straight under the, there's a tunnel that takes you.

2:06:28.5

David:

All right. So, it sounds like the timeline works. Oh, no, I was going back to the, sorry, I had questions in my head.

2:06:36.2

Lisa:

Yeah, no, we were just saying before, just on the phone thing. If we can get an answer from Vodafone on what their assessment is of why everything was wiped. I mean, they may not know.

2:06:49.8

David:

Yeah.

2:06:49.9

Lisa:

But -

2:06:50.4

Brittany:
Yep.

2:06:50.9

Lisa:
There's, most of those companies have hackers who work for them, who can pretty easily work out -

2:06:58.2

Brittany:
Ascertain.

2:06:59.0

Lisa:
Yeah, but if we can get something. I was suggesting, and it was only a suggestion, that it might be interesting, on the final day, to just ask the question, does anybody know what happened to my phone? Why was everything wiped?

2:07:14.6

David:
Yeah.

2:07:14.2

Lisa:
Because, if we can get something on the phone, it sort of speaks to the whole issue of the secrecy that's existed entirely.

2:07:26.4

Angus:
Is there an IT group, is there like an IT support -

2:07:30.6

Brittany:
Yeah.

2:07:31.9

Angus:
- that you could go to and just say, hey, everything, without it being alerted to everybody else?

2:07:36.2

Brittany:
No. So, like, everything's sort of run through multiple teams. There's a parliamentary IT team, and then I've got a departmental IT team. And all of them respond to, or realistically, (a) to the minister, or (b) to the Department of Parliamentary Services, which is the Minister for Finance.

2:07:53.5

Brittany:
So, they're all responsible to, they're all, technically, it's like asking anyone who works in the Department of Defence to speak to sort of operational issues. Broadly, they're all responsible said minister.

2:08:06.0

Angus:

Yeah.

2:08:06.1

Brittany:

So, they're not going to tell me anything. But Vodafone might. So, yeah, I'm optimistic about Vodafone.

2:08:09.9

Angus:

Yeah.

2:08:11.2

David:

Yeah, it's like a brand new, it's not an old phone.

2:08:13.3

Brittany:

No. Probably four months ago. Yeah, yeah, it's got three cameras. It's good -

2:08:17.6

Lisa:

That shouldn't break down.

2:08:19.2

Angus:

That photo you showed me before.

2:08:21.5

Brittany:

Yes.

2:08:21.2

Angus:

Can I get a copy of that?

2:08:22.3

Brittany:

Course you can.

2:08:22.6

Angus:

If you do an airdrop or something, that -

2:08:24.2

Brittany:

Yeah, yeah.

2:08:25.8

Angus:
Would that work?

2:08:25.5

Brittany:
Yeah.

2:08:29.0

Lisa:
Was there anything else?

2:08:30.5

Angus:
I don't think so, at the moment.

2:08:31.7

Lisa:
So, I've screenshot the Linda Reynolds tweets and private exchanges.

2:08:36.5

David:
Do you need to have the photo of those photos, or is that more -

2:08:39.3

Brittany:
Angus' phone?

2:08:40.2

Angus:
Yeah, that's me.

2:08:43.2

Lisa:
Can we keep these?

2:08:45.1

David:
Yeah.

2:08:44.8

Lisa:
Great.

2:08:46.1

David:
I think so. Can they?

2:08:45.8

Brittany:
Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

2:08:46.8

David:

I'm speaking for Britt. Printed that at work, that's good. It's a weird, was that freaky?

2:08:52.3

Lisa:

And what about these?

2:08:54.5

Brittany:

Oh, yeah, that was just, I just put it on top, on the basis that I would need it to get it out of the building.

2:08:58.6

Lisa:

Yep, sure. Do you want to take those?

2:09:03.4

Angus:

Yes. Thank you.

2:09:05.5

Lisa:

So, when are you meeting with Miles?

2:09:08.0

Angus:

Oh, I'll call him this afternoon.

2:09:11.1

Lisa:

Yeah. Okay.

2:09:13.2

Angus:

But I'll call travel people first to make sure -

2:09:19.1

Lisa:

Oh yeah, to change the booking.

2:09:20.7

Angus:

Yeah. Hang on, I'm just making sure that that photo's -

2:09:23.4

Lisa:

We've kept it -

2:09:24.0

Brittany:

[2:09:24.1]?

2:09:24.7

Angus:

Yeah, yeah. I'm just making sure I've got it there.

2:09:25.9

Lisa:

- to such a tiny number of people.

2:09:28.1

David:

Yeah, thank you.

2:09:31.0

Lisa:

That, welcome to your travel agent.

2:09:32.0

David:

Oh yeah.

2:09:32.6

Angus:

Yeah. So, yeah, I'll flick that, the changes to you.

2:09:36.0

David:

Yeah, thank you. So, it's, yeah, cool.

2:09:37.5

Angus:

As soon as I've got them.

2:09:38.4

Lisa:

That's why we didn't even -

2:09:38.9 INTERVIEW ENDS

2:09:38.9 AUDIO ENDS