

stargazer

by

Zoe Hunter & Leslie Roberts

Copyright © Zoe Hunter & Leslie Roberts 2014

1st Edition

Age 14yrs +

The author asserts the moral right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as the author of this work.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means without the prior consent of the author, nor be otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover other than that which it is published and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.cluelessclarence.com

www.marshland.org.uk/zoeindex.html

Authors assert the moral right under the Copyright. All characters and events in this publication, other than those clearly in the public domain, are fictitious and any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental, designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as the author of this work.

Stargazer is dedicated to my family and to the memory of Leslie Roberts. His encouragement, support and friendship were instrumental in turning dreams into reality.

*He was a true friend and an inspirational collaborator.
I will always treasure my memories of him.*

With love

Zoe X

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the following people for their encouragement and support: Annette Probert, Peter Layzell and to everyone who have very kindly taken my Clueless Clarence cards from all corners of the UK to places such as to America, and even to Australia! Thank you ever so much to you all.

I am raising money and awareness for Autism Bedfordshire .Charity no. 1100722 just log on to.

<https://zoehunter.bandcamp.com/album/rock-on>

Here are two very exciting albums entitled *Rock on* and *Swimming Against the Tide*, which includes a possible national autistic anthem *The Sea is Red* for Autism Awareness Day on 2nd April.

Also, I would like to thank Jack Donachie for the following tracks © 2014:

Swimming against the Tide, Learn to Love Again, Love Attack, Hey Mister Bus Driver, Everybody Gets the Blues Sometimes and *Just Another Christmas Song*.

It's Christmas Eve © 2014 written by Annette Probert and Zoe Hunter.

Good listening, everyone!

Scene 1

It's 6 p.m. on Friday 2nd December 2011; and in a town called Port St Clare in Cornwall; 18-year-old Miss Suzie Bradshaw is standing in front of her large bedroom wardrobe mirror dressed up in her white and brown serving wench's costume. Suzie's mum Jackie is in the kitchen washing up.

SUZIE

(Looking at a script)

Right, I've got to remind myself here, it's set in mid-June 1914, so just before the First World War then, and I'm heading back towards the bar holding an empty tray in amongst the scruffy rowdy customers. Right, so I've got quite a few lines to say in Act 1 with Rose's dad, Walter. There's also this song *Oh, what a Life This is!* to perform with the rest of the cast, and I'll need to know all of it off pat by next Wednesday's dress rehearsal. Hmm, well I suppose I'd better get on with it then. So, first everyone sings.

(Singing)

Oh, what hard life this is (hmm)

Oh, what a hard life this is

Then I'm going solo.

(Singing)

What a hard life this is.

If you should ever fall ill

It's the doctor you'll have to see.

But what if you've no money?

It isn't free!

Oh, such a poor life this is

Scotland is so beautiful

That is what the rich folks all say

Will I be able to afford it – one day?

(Talking)

Then it'll be back to the chorus, so...

(Singing)

Oh, what hard life

(The doorbell rings, Jackie opens the front door)

JACKIE

Oh, hello its Alessia Capello, isn't it?

ALESSIA

Yes, that's right. Hello Mrs Bradshaw.

JACKIE

Please call me Jackie everybody else does.

ALESSIA

Oh OK. I'll remember that. Is Suzie in?

JACKIE

Yes, you're in luck she's in her bedroom practising for your brand-new *Whatever it Takes* show. Come on inside love.

(Shouting)

Suzie! It's Alessia, she has come to see you.

SUZIE

Damn it!

(Suzie opens her bedroom door and shouts)

I'm in my bedroom Alessia!

ALESSIA

(Walks upstairs and enters Suzie's bedroom)

Hi Suzie, do you know all your lines yet?

SUZIE

No, I was just about to go through them. I'm only the understudy for Daisy. You know Maria never ever misses any of her performances. Oh, how I wish they picked me to play Rosie instead. And you're playing Theresa - you lucky thing.

ALESSIA

Look Suzie, I've just been performing for a little bit longer than you. Your time to play the lead roles will come soon enough. You just need a little bit more – well experience. Unlike me for instance like I've been Claire in *The Girl Next Door but One*.

(Singing)

If you're looking for life.
Come down our street.
Everything happens here.
Some of the goings-on we just can't repeat.
But soon it will all be made clear.

I just love that *Down Our Street* song. I've also been Lorraine in *In Love and at War*

(Singing)

Oh, what shall I wear?
Now do I wear this for a dare?
A slinky black dress
Or will it make me look a mess?

(Pause)

Oh, I wish I was doing them again.

SUZIE

Show-off! And I bet you know all your lines to this one as well.

ALESSIA

(Shouting)

Suzie! I've come here to help you! If you don't want me to then I can quite happily go back and talk to your mum instead.

SUZIE

Oh, I'm sorry; yes, this is nice of you to help me.

ALESSIA

Great! So, where do we start? Right, we're in the *Black Swan* pub. I'm Walter. I'm slightly tipsy and we're having a conversation. I say D- Daisy, can my friends have their usual on m-me courtesy of good old Theresa's mum, M-Martha. I've got some happy news to t-tell ya all. Right, are ya ready?

SUZIE

Yes, go on then, you're first.

(Suzy's mobile phone starts beeping)

ALESSIA

(Shouting)

Don't answer it! It's bound to be Gavin Spacey again wanting you to go out with him just like he did last Friday. He's no good for you, you know.

SUZIE

(Shouting)

If you want to still be my friend, you'd better stay out of this!

ALESSIA

OK, but don't come running to me when you end up in hospital or something.

SUZIE

Don't be silly Alessia.

(Suzie answers mobile phone and puts it on loudspeaker)
Gavin - what's up?

GAVIN

Hi gorgeous, want to come out tonight?

SUZIE

Where? Not back to that noisy bowling rink place.

GAVIN

No. How would ya like to go to McDonald's?

SUZIE

Only if Alessia comes as well?

GAVIN

Of course. Hey Alessia, do I have this right? Are ya single at this precise moment?

ALESSIA

I refuse to answer that question.

GAVIN

So, I'm going to take that as a no.

SUZIE

What are you cooking up for us then?

GAVIN

You'll see. See ya, bye.

ALESSIA

Why did you do that? I don't want to go to McDonald's. You should've asked me first before you went and said that to him.

SUZIE

Sorry Alessia, but I thought it would be a good idea for you to meet him. He's not all that bad you know.

ALESSIA

OK, I'll do it but just this once. We shall have to abandon the script now and you can't go in that somewhat revealing dreary costume either.

SUZIE

Oh yes, how about if you go and wait in the porch while I change into something a little more comfortable. I shall have to practise my words tomorrow instead.

ALESSIA

Good idea, see you in a minute.

(Exit Alessia)

Scene 2

It's now 6. 15 pm; Jackie and Alessia are talking by the front door.

JACKIE

Leaving us already, Alessia?

ALESSIA

No, I'm not just yet. Gavin has invited Suzie and me to meet him at McDonald's. Will it be OK for us to go?

JACKIE

Look Alessia, I know you're both 18, but we think she's a little bit young minded for your age group. And her dad and I are getting quite worried about this Gavin guy. We've only met him once and the minute we laid eyes on him we sensed he wasn't a nice person. But what can we do about it? Other than to tell her he's no good. I suppose she's old enough now to learn from her own mistakes.

ALESSIA

Well, I haven't met this Gavin yet, but I'll try my best to get her to come to her senses.

(Enter Suzie)

SUZIE

Right, I'm ready now. Come on Alessia let's go!

JACKIE

Bye love. Keep in touch.

SUZIE

Yes, of course. Love ya. Bye!

(Exit Suzie and Alessia)

Scene 3

It's 33 minutes later, it's raining Suzie and Alessia enter McDonald's.

ALESSIA

Wow! It's extremely busy in here. Oh, there's Gavin with his so-called mates; Steve Phillips, Mick Richards, and another boy who he most probably wants me to date. Oh my God! He looks terrible with all that messy hair and what on earth is he wearing? He reminds me of a smelly old tramp I very nearly bumped into once.

GAVIN

(Waving and shouting)

Suzie, Alessia come over here. I don't know. You girls should have been here ages ago. So, I'm afraid that we've all just finished our grub.

SUZIE

I'm so sorry Gavin. We decided to walk and when we were about halfway, it just started pouring down and we got absolutely soaked to the skin. I've never been in something like this before.

(Unbuttoning coat)

It's just like a monsoon out there. I promise you I'll try not to be late again.

GAVIN

OK. I know you won't let me down again. Anyway, Alessia let me introduce you to Keith Smith. Keith this is Alessia McManus. Look there's a free chair why not sit down here next to Keith, Alessia?

(Reluctantly Alessia sits down on the chair)

GAVIN

So, I've ordered you both your food here, it might be a little cold by now, but what the hell. You both have fries and a coke. Suzie, you have a chicken burger and Alessia you have a beef burger.

SUZIE

(Sitting down)

But I don't like chicken I thought you knew that.

ALESSIA

I'm sorry but I don't like beef. Hey Suzie, all we need to do is swap burgers.

SUZIE

Good idea.

GAVIN

(Laughing)

Yeah, why don't you both just do that?

KEITH

(Smirking)

Hi there Alessia, Gavin tells me you're single at the moment; so am I.

ALESSIA

I'm sorry but I never said that. He just assumed it because I refused to answer his question.

GAVIN

Hey! Everyone! Look who's just walked in, it's Catlin Carter and her best mate Maria Jenkins.

(Standing up and walking over)

Catlin, Maria come and sit at our table it's over there by the window.

ALESSIA

(Leaning close to Suzie)

Great, my understudy and your Daisy are joining us now.

SUZIE

Wonderful.

MARIA

Hi Alessia, Suzie, Steve, Zack and Keith, fancy seeing you lot in here.

(Taking off her coat)

I've never been in something like this before - it's terrible out there.

SUZIE

I know; we got absolutely drenched didn't we Alessia?

ALESSIA

Yes, we did. Hi Maria and Catlin, anyway Catlin how are you getting on with our lines, do you know all of them yet?

CATLIN

Yes, have you?

ALESSIA

Of course.

GAVIN

I'm sorry but we don't particularly want this evening spent discussing your *silly* show. We are here to enjoy ourselves. Maria, Catlin do ya want to come with us. After they've both finished their burgers, we're going to see my mate, Zack Higgins. His parents are away until midday tomorrow, so he's having a Christmas party at his massive house.

SUZIE

So, this is your surprise, we're all going out to Zack's.

GAVIN

Come on Suzie, you'll enjoy it; it'll be a lot of fun.

ALESSIA

Oh, I'm sorry but I can't go. Tomorrow I'm off to my Auntie Karen's 50th birthday party. She lives in Wales, so I've got to get up very early I'm sorry. Anyway, right now I really need to spend a penny.

(Winking)

Do you need to go as well Suzie?

SUZIE

Yes, I do.

(Turning to face Gavin)

I won't be long.

(Suzie and Alessia enter ladies' toilets)

ALESSIA

Suzie, are you going to this party?

SUZIE

Yes, like Gavin said it'll be a lot of fun.

ALESSIA

Look, I'm going to tell you this because we're best friends and so, we should share everything together. I know Gavin 's controlling you. Well, you know my ex . Anyway, you didn't know this, but she was doing it to me too! Well, as you know we met last year in August and at first, everything was great, but then little cracks started to appear. And by New Year's Eve I'd had enough, so I left her. I'm telling you; she'd put me through absolute hell. All those lies she said. Oh, and once I'd caught her smoking behind my back! Unbelievable!

SUZIE

(Hugging Alessia)

I'm sorry Alessia, I didn't know that. But I'm telling you. You've got it all wrong about Gavin, he's just looking out for me and there's nothing wrong in that.

ALESSIA

OK, but don't ever say I didn't try to warn you.

SUZIE

I won't. Friends?

ALESSIA

Friends.

(Letting go of each other)

Right let's get out of here.

(Suzie and Alessia exit ladies' toilets)

ALESSIA

Bye then..... have a nice time.

SUZIE/GAVIN

Bye Alessia.

(Exit Alessia)

SUZIE

(Looking around)

Where is everybody?

GAVIN

(Whispering)

I asked them to wait for us outside. You showed me up this evening, making a mole out of a mountain, how dare you?

SUZIE

(Shouting)

What do you mean! I showed you up. How?

GAVIN

(Whispering)

Keep your voice down. To begin with you were over 30 Minutes late. And I wasn't a fan that you'd swapped your burger with Alessia either.

SUZIE

It was her idea not mine.

GAVIN

Even so, don't do it again. Like I said before you showed me up. I was really embarrassed.

SUZIE

I'm sorry Gavin it was very nice of you to buy the food for us and so, we shouldn't have really moaned. You're so right, come on let's go, the others are still waiting for us.

Scene 4

Zack is in his big house waiting for his guests to arrive.

(Enter Gavin, Suzie, Maria, Catlin, Keith, and Steve)

GAVIN

Right, everyone we're here. Isn't this place just fantastic!

SUZIE

Wow! This house is so lovely; I wish to own something like this myself someday.

ZACK

(Opens front door)

Hello everyone, come inside. So, where have you parked your car, Gavin?

GAVIN

Oh, I had to park that down the road because I couldn't find anywhere else closer.

ZACK

Sorry about that Gavin.

GAVIN

That's OK, at least the rain has stopped.

ZACK

So, what's your tippie everyone? I've got the lot.
(winking to Gavin).

GAVIN

(smiling)

Great, let's get inside then; we're all getting a little cold standing out here.

(Upbeat Christmas music is playing)

ZACK

Of course.

(Walking)

This is the kitchen, everything you need is in there.

SUZIE

Thanks Zack, nice to see you again. It has been a long time, at least a year or so.

ZACK

Yeah, it was when you had your 18th birthday party and I got very drunk.

SUZIE

Oh yes, and I made Jacob take you home in his car.

ZACK

So, you're going out with that nerd. I never thought you'd date someone like him - not in a million years.

SUZIE

Well, at the time I was lonely, but I soon got rid of him.

ZACK

I wonder what he's doing now.

SUZIE

I've no idea and I'd like to keep it that way, thank you.

ZACK

Oh, dear I wasn't thinking. I do apologise.

SUZIE

That's fine I never loved him anyway, not how I love Gavin.
(Enter Gavin)

GAVIN

(Winking)

Hi beautiful. I'm just going to the bog, and I might be sometime.

SUZIE

What's Gavin winking to you about?

ZACK

Don't know. He doesn't fancy me. He's got you, you lucky

thing.

SUZIE

Oh Zack, you'll find someone male or female. I know you'll not be fussed.

ZACK

Yes, I am, I'm totally gay now I've given up on dating girls altogether.

SUZIE

Oh right. So, you fancy Gavin then?

ZACK

Well now that would be telling.

(Enter Keith)

KEITH

Suzie? So, is Alessia single then? She's so gorgeous.

SUZIE

Yes, she is. Anyway, she's not really into men if you get my drift.

KEITH

Oh, yes, I'd forgotten about that.

(Exit Keith then Zack's front doorbell rings)

ZACK

Excuse me, Suzie. I wonder who that could be?

(Opens front door to Louie Jefferson and gang)

Oh, it's you Louie. You and your lot are not, I repeat not, invited so please leave. You're not welcome here.

(Enter Zack's rival gang)

LOUIE

So, Zack, this is where you're selling your drugs.

ZACK

I've got to pay my way somehow through college, Louie.

SUZIE

What! You're selling drugs! I'm getting Gavin and the rest and we're leaving - right now!

ZACK

What do you think Gavin was up to in the bog, Suzie?

SUZIE

Oh my God! Right, that does it. I'm calling my dad; he'll pick me up.

(walks towards the front door)

I'm going to wait for him outside. Tell Gavin we're finished, it's over!

(Enter Gavin)

ZACK

Tell him yourself.

GAVIN

Suzie, surely, ya don't mean that. Look, I've haven't been doing it for long. I can stop if ya want me to.

SUZIE

No Gavin. When I was in the McDonald's bogs Alessia tried to warn me about you.

GAVIN

Oh yeah, so what did she say then?

SUZIE

Well, she said you're controlling me. I didn't believe her, but I wished I'd listened. Because right now I'll be back at home and not here! We're finished, goodbye!

(Exit Suzie - running down footpath crying)

GAVIN

Oh no, I'm going, I can't lose her.

LOUIE

You've lost her already, mate.

GAVIN

I'm not your mate, Louie, don't you ever call me that again.

LOUIE

(Laughing)

Ha! Look everybody he's all alone now, isn't that a shame!

GAVIN

What did ya say? You've just lost me my girlfriend.

(Hitting Louie)

Take that and that!

(Fighting breaks out)

Scene 5

It's 9.30 a.m. the following day Gavin has a big plaster on his head, and he is pacing up and down his bedroom floor holding a ten pence coin.

GAVIN

What shall I do?

(Pause)

So, heads I do, tails I don't. Well, here I go.

(Gavin tosses the coin it lands on heads).

Oh, bloody hell right OK I'll phone her I'll phone Suzie.

(Suzie's mobile phone is beeping)

SUZIE

(Answer's mobile phone)

Gavin I'm not speaking to you.

GAVIN

(Laughing)

You'll already are. Please can I have just a few minutes that's all I'm asking for, please, please?

SUZIE

Hmmm, OK, but I'm not getting back with you, you do know that.

GAVIN

Please forgive me Suzie, I've seen it now without realising it. I can be such an idiot sometimes.

SUZIE

I'm interested so tell me what happened after I left the party?

GAVIN

Oh that, yes. Well, there was this big fight and the pigs turned up. Apparently, his neighbour complained about the noise.

SUZIE

Go on.

GAVIN

They found the needles and took Zack in for questioning and he's still there probably making some deal with them, knowing him. Luckily Louie didn't press charges against me, thank goodness.

SUZIE

What do you mean by that?

GAVIN

Well, he started being nasty to me, so I had to shut him up. Then everyone else started fighting each other. I'm telling ya in the end his place was a total mess.

SUZIE

Right, so I've got to go now Gavin, have a nice life.

GAVIN

Hang on a minute! Don't ya want to go out anywhere soon?

SUZIE

You've had your time; I'm going now goodbye.
(Suzie switches her mobile phone off)

GAVIN

Damn it!

(Hands on forehead)

Scene 6

It's 10 20 p.m. Wednesday 7th December; Alessia and Suzie are outside standing by the theatre's backstage entrance talking about the dress rehearsal.

ALESSIA

So, there were a few mistakes but overall, I think it went quite well. What do you think, Suzie?

SUZIE

Yep, I agree. Anyway, how are you getting home tonight?
(Looking ahead Suzie spots the family car approaching)
Oh, good my mum's here, would you like to join us?

ALESSIA

No thanks, I've already got a lift coming.

SUZIE

(Hugging Alessia)

OK I'll see you tomorrow then! Break a leg and all that.
Bye!

(Exit Suzie)

Scene 7

It's 4. 05 p.m. The following day Suzie has just finished college and is walking down the main street. She finds her mobile phone in her big bag and switches it on to see if anybody has been trying to contact her.

SUZIE

Oh! I've got a text from Alessia's mum asking me to phone her urgently. I'd better ring her back.

(Suzie dials on her mobile phone)
Hello, it's Suzie what's up?

SOFIA
Thanks for ringing me. I'm sorry to have to tell you this,
but Alessia was with her ex last night.

SUZIE
Oh my God! Why on earth did she do that?

SOFIA
(Crying and shrugging shoulders)
I've no idea, it was news to me as well, but right now I'm
phoning you from outside the hospital. There was a car
crash. Alessia's in a coma, Suzie.

SUZIE
(Crying)
No! I've got to see her. Why didn't she tell me yesterday?

SOFIA
(Crying)
Maybe she knew you would've objected.

SUZIE
(Crying)
Look, I'm very close to a taxi rank. I shall be over there as
soon as I can. Bye.

Sence 8

It's 15 minutes later Sofia and Suzie are inside the hospital
sitting at Alessia's bedside.

SUZIE
Oh, Alessia why her of all people? After how you had a
go at me over Gavin. I know, I'll play some music.

(Getting out her portable CD player from her bag and places the headphones into Alessia's ears)
Just listen to this. Oh, so what happened exactly?

SOFIA

Yes – so, they crashed into a tree stump. Luckily there wasn't any other vehicles involved.

SUZIE

(Looking around)

So, where's Johnie?

SOFIA

She died at the wheel, Suzie. Apparently, they'd found drugs in her system. I've absolutely no idea why they don't do more roadside drug tests.

SUZIE

Yes, I agree. I wonder how she's going to take the news when she wakes up.

SOFIA

Look Suzie...I wasn't really thinking earlier. You shouldn't be here, you're due to go on stage in a few hours' time and you need to be ready for the show. Like they say the show must go on and all that. I know that Alessia would agree with me.

SUZIE

Yes, but not until after this song has finished.

SOFIA

Suzie, please listen if you wait for this to finish you might miss the last bus back. Why don't you come again tomorrow?

SUZIE

(Stopping the music)

OK then.

(Puts her portable CD player into her bag)

Then when I'll return, I'll let her know how Catlin gets on with her first ever lead performance.

SOFIA

Good girl - now just don't miss that bus.

SUZIE

(Kisses Alessia on the forehead)

Love you, hold on girl and I'll see you tomorrow.

(Hugging Sofia)

Bye Sofia.

(Exit Suzie)

Scene 9

It's 2 hours later Suzie is in the dressing room getting ready for the show. Enter Catlin.

CATLIN

Suzie! Have you heard about Alessia?

SUZIE

Yes, I've just seen her, she's in a coma, oh and Johnie's dead, she died in the crash.

CATLIN

(Crying)

Oh my God! I think I knew her, but as an acquaintance. I believe she was quite a nice person from what I can recall. Oh, please forgive me. I'm getting quite nervous now.

SUZIE

(Hugging Catlin)

Look, for what's it's worth Johnie wasn't all that nice. Last week Alessia told me all about her and the terrible things she did to her, things I just can't repeat. God only

knows why she was with her last night. . Come on dry your tears you'll be fine.

CATLIN

Really?

SUZIE

Yes really, so just let's forget about her and go out there and do it all for Alessia.

CATLIN

Yes, you're right Suzie, like always.

(Suzie's mobile phone is beeping)

That sounds like somebody's phone.

SUZIE

Oh, it's mine, I wonder who it can be?

(Picking up her mobile phone)

Oh! It's Alessia's mum, yes Sofia. What's

SOFIA

(Interrupting)

Sorry to interrupt you right now, but it's great news! Alessia has come round, and the doctor has given the thumbs up, Suzie. Perhaps it was that music you played that did the trick. She's going to be here for a few more days. She's asking for you, so is it still on for tomorrow?

SUZIE

Yes, of course.

SOFIA

Wonderful. Thank you, Suzie.

SUZIE

Anything to help. Wow I'm so happy. I'll let everybody here know, I'll see you both tomorrow thanks Sofia. Bye!

(Smiling and turning to face Maria)

Alessia is going to be OK. Yes! Look, we're got a few minutes before the show starts. So, would you like to hear our favourite song that I played her yesterday?

CATLIN

Yeah! Let's do that!

(Suzie gets out her portable CD player from her bag, places one of the headphones into Catlin's right ear and the other one into her left own ear and together they listen to Paloma Faith's *Stargazer*)

The End