

Erotomania

written by
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FADE IN:

INT. COSY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ZELDA (18) baby faced, snuggles under his blanket, glass of wine in hand, a modelling talent show on the TV.

The front door CREAKS open, then closed again.

BARNEY (18) Styled Beard, curly moustache, bow tie and bowler hat. Hipster. Strolls in, eyes up Zelda and the TV.

BARNEY

What the fudge are you watching?

Zelda kicks the blanket off of him, sits up, man spreads.

ZELDA

What? nothin', it was just on.

BARNEY

Bullship! she hosts this, don't she?

Zelda ignores. Barney moves between him and the TV.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

Don't she?

Zelda hastily pushes Barney to one side.

ZELDA

Shush, fine, yes, shes on now!

ON TV

ARIEL GARLAND (20's) a goddess, smoke billows around her as wind waves through her golden locks.

BACK TO SCENE

Zelda stares, puppy dog eyed at the TV, it's screen goes black.

ZELDA

Why the hell did you do that?

BARNEY

I had to, before you started touching yourself.

Zelda HUFFS, stands, heads for the stairs.

ZELDA
Come, exciting news I wanna show
ya.

Barney doesn't budge.

BARNEY
Tell me here, I don't wanna go up
there.

ZELDA
Just come on for fuck sake.

Barney plods to the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - ZELDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pictures and memorabilia of Ariel Garland cover everything.
walls, tables, the bed.

Zelda sits at a COMPUTER, searching online.

Barney stands at the rooms centre, taking it all in.

BARNEY
Fudge'in'ell I hate this room.

ZELDA
Look, shes sent me another message,
the best one so far.

Barney inspects a POSTER of a scantily clad Ariel Garland
next to the bed.

BARNEY
Like, how much seamen is on this?

Zelda spins around in his chair.

ZELDA
None, I don't think. Will you come
and look at this?

Barney heads over to the computer.

BARNEY
If you put a black light in here, I
reckon you can see it from space.
Right, what's this message.

Zelda opens up an Instagram post of Ariel's. It has a lengthy comment.

ZELDA

Now, look at the first letter of each line of her comment, what does it say?

Barney leans in closer.

BARNEY

It doesn't say anything.

Zelda frantically opens up another tab on the browser.

ZELDA

Idiot, it's a code.

BARNEY

Naturally.

ZELDA

But if you put those letters into an enigma machine--

BARNEY

-Why would you put that into an enigma machine? Doesn't matter, I have something to tell you.

ZELDA

To crack the code obviously.

Barney tries to grab the computer mouse, wrestles it from Zelda's grip. Zelda tries to snatch it back

ZELDA (CONT'D)

Get off, stop. I gotta show you the message.

Barney whips the mouse into Zelda's face. he squeals in pain. Zelda slumps in defeat.

Barney sits on the bed, spots the scantily clad poster and jumps back up. He removes a handkerchief from his pocket, carefully lies it out on the bed and sits on it.

BARNEY

Now, please please please, do not lose your ship over this.

Zelda leans forward. Barney takes a deep breath.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

I may know a guy, who knows a guy,
who has connections with a guy who
is related to... to be honest I
forgot the friggin' link, the point
is. I may have a chance for you to
meet Ariel.

Zelda sits back, stares, mouth agape.

ZELDA

Don't toy with me.

Barney's expression is serious. Zelda leans forward.

ZELDA (CONT'D)

Seriously?

Barney nods.

BARNEY

Yes mate, seriously.

Zelda stares before leaping from his seat.

ZELDA

(Squealing)

Oh my god! Oh my god! Oh my god!

Zelda grabs Barney and squeezes him tightly.

EXT. DINGY STREET - NIGHT

Rows of terraced houses. YOUTHS gather on the corner. Barney leads Zelda along the path.

ZELDA

Why have you brought me to benefit
street?

BARNEY

This is where my guy lives.

Zelda eyes up the youths, they glare back, Zelda quickly shifts his gaze.

ZELDA

Your guy, how you know this guy?

BARNEY

Work with him.

Zelda looks puzzled.

ZELDA

Do you mean you *used* to work with him?

Barney and Zelda come to a stop outside a scruffy house, a tatty saint Georges flag flies from an upstairs window.

BARNEY

No, i work with him now.

ZELDA

Fuck sake Barney! You started there like two days ago, you don't know anyone.

BARNEY

Pretty sure this is it.

Zelda eyes up the house.

ZELDA

Oh great.

EXT. DINGY HOUSE STEPS - CONTINUOUS

Barney knocks on the door. It creaks open, ADNAN (30's) scrawny, plain face, plain clothes, stands in the doorway.

ADNAN

Please, in, in.

Barney follows Adnan into the house. Zelda sighs and follows.

INT. DINGY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Minimal. Very British pictures adorn the walls. the Queen, Beatles, a red bus, people waiting patiently in a long queue.

Barney and Zelda hover awkwardly in the centre, Adnan heads through a door into the kitchen.

ADNAN (O.C.)

Er, you, er, wanting cock?

Zelda fires Barney a look.

BARNEY

Erm, excuse me?

ADNAN (O.C.)

Er, you know, er, cool cock, cock.

Adnan appears, makes a blowjob gesture with his hand.

ZELDA
Did he just ask...

BARNEY
Yea I think so.

ZELDA
What the hell, this is your guy?

BARNEY
Nope, no idea who he is.

Another door swings open, in boulders GAZ (40's) skinhead, tattoos, a face only a mother could love.

GAZ
Bell ends, hes asking if you want a coke.

BARNEY
Gaz the geezer!

Barney and Gaz bump into an awkward hug.

GAZ
Barney me old mucker!

Gaz looks Zelda up and down.

GAZ (CONT'D)
Who's this?

BARNEY
Yea, yea this is the guy I was telling you about, Zelda.

Gaz unsuccessfully tries to hide a snigger. They shake hands.

GAZ
Alright mate.

ZELDA
My parents were gamer's, I'm aware it's a sucky name.

Gaz gestures to the sofa, Zelda sits, Gaz joins him.

BARNEY
Where's the pisser mate?

GAZ
Upstairs, room with the toilet in.

Barney heads upstairs.

Adnan pokes his head through the kitchen door.

ADNAN

Cock?

ZELDA

Erm, yea sure.

Adnan disappears back into the kitchen.

GAZ

Sorry bout him mate, he's Syrian,
don't speak English all that great.

ZELDA

Oh I see, did you take in one of
them Syrian refugees? That's a
great thing to do.

Gaz stares, stern,

GAZ

He's me husband.

Zelda nervously laughs.

ZELDA

Yea good one.

GAZ

The fuck you laughin' at? What?
Just because I look like a Neo-
Nazi's wet dream I can't like a bit
of cock?

Gaz stands up.

GAZ (CONT'D)

You judgemental mother fucker.

Barney comes back into the room.

BARNEY

Woah! Whats going on?

GAZ

Your fucking mate here bringing his
neolithic prejudice into my house.
sorry I don't fall into your
stereotypical ideals of what a gay
man should look like.

Barney glares at Zelda.

BARNEY

So sorry mate, he don't get out much.

Gaz gets in close to Zelda.

GAZ

Guess what, I didn't vote UKIP, I voted Green Party, shove that up your prejudicial arse.

Adnan storms into the room, throws a COKE CAN a little too hard at Zelda, and cradles Gaz face.

ADNAN

Calm my love.

Adnan kisses Gaz. They both take a seat, Zelda and Barney follow suit.

GAZ

I don't think I wanna do this now.

ZELDA

No, no, no please. I'm super sorry. I didn't mean to offend, i'm just, god I'm sorry.

Zelda gets on his knees in front of Gaz and takes his hand.

ZELDA (CONT'D)

I'm not homophobic, I swear, I beg you, please.

Gaz stares at Zelda, eventually he cracks a smile.

GAZ

Gimmie a hug.

Zelda grabs Gaz and squeezes tight.

GAZ (CONT'D)

Alright, alright I forgive you.

Zelda releases and sits next to Barney, beaming.

GAZ (CONT'D)

Me and Barney 'av already 'ammered out a deal. You wanna "meet" Ariel garland right?

Gaz puts up finger quotes at the word meet.

ZELDA

More than- why did you put meet in quotes?

Barney hits Zelda on the arm.

ZELDA (CONT'D)

Sorry, yes, yes I do. More than anything. Can you really make it happen?

GAZ

Can I make it happen? 'course mucker. You just leave the details to me and Adnan.

ZELDA

Thank you! Thank you so much.

BARNEY

See! Told you my guy was legit. Zelda here was worried you might have been some weirdo.

Gaz and Adnan laugh hysterically at the notion.

GAZ

Totally normal me, mate.

Gaz stands.

GAZ (CONT'D)

Barney boy! I'll be in touch when it's done. Don't forget what we agreed!

Barney and Zelda both stand. They both shake hands with Gaz and Adnan.

INT. CLASSIC BEETLE CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Barney drives, glances between the windscreen and a sat-nav.

Zelda, in the passenger seat, wears a tuxedo. He breaths quicker than he should. Barney gives him a reassuring tap on the shoulder.

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Barney and Zelda stand next to the beetle, mouths agape staring at the building.

ZELDA

Barney?

BARNEY

Yes mate.

ZELDA

This doesn't look like a good meeting place. You sure you got the right address?

Barney takes a deep breath. He turns to Zelda and straightens up his clothes.

BARNEY

Of course! It's just, out the way you know, probably to avoid the paparazzi and shiz.

Zelda's breath quickens, panic setting in.

Barney kisses Zelda's forehead to calm him. Zelda cracks a nervous smile, he's ready.

Barney runs to the boot of the car, hauls out a BAG OF SAND. He hauls it onto his shoulder and strolls past Zelda. Zelda follows next to him

ZELDA

Barney?

BARNEY

Yes mate.

ZELDA

Why are you carrying a bag of sand?

INT. EMPTY WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Zelda and Barney look small in the expanse of the warehouse, they stare ahead, mouths agape. Barney drops the bag of sand.

At the centre of the warehouse, a figure slumps in a chair, hands tied behind their back, a black bag over their head.

The door behind them slams shut, startling the hostage.

Gaz emerges from a corner office door, pulls up his trouser zip.

GAZ

Lads! About bloody time.

Adnan emerges from the same door, wiping his mouth. He waves at the new arrivals enthusiastically.

Gaz moves next to the hostage, caressing their head.

GAZ (CONT'D)

Told you I could do it!

Zelda pelts it across the warehouse floor towards the hostage, Barney follows close behind.

Zelda grabs the bag and in one swift tug, rips it from the hostages head.

HOSTAGE (50's) male, gagged, stares terrified at Zelda.

Zelda squeals, jumps back. Barney points to the hostage.

BARNEY

Who the flip is this?

Gaz looks puzzled at the hostage, then at barney.

GAZ

It's Ariel Garland, numb nuts.

BARNEY

No, it's not.

GAZ

Yes, it is.

BARNEY

No, it really isn't.

ZELDA

Wha- wha- why is he tied up?

Gaz moves in close to the hostage.

GAZ

Oi, weepy bollocks. Whats your name?

The hostage mumbles under the gag. Gaz gives him a swift kick in the leg.

GAZ (CONT'D)

Speak up.

Adnan rolls his eyes, moves over to hostage and takes off the gag. The hostage gasps, stretching his newly freed jaw.

HOSTAGE

A- A- Ariel, Gar-land.

Gaz stands up straight, arms stretched.

GAZ

See, told ya.

HOSTAGE

Please, I'm begging, help.

Gaz slams his palm over the hostages mouth.

GAZ

Another word and the gag goes on,
nod if you understand.

The hostage nods frantically. Gaz releases the mans mouth,
patting him patronisingly on his cheek

GAZ (CONT'D)

There's a good boy.

Zelda grabs Barney by the scruff.

ZELDA

Why the fuck is there a middle aged
hostage?

Barney wrestles Zelda off him.

BARNEY

Why would we want to meet this old
guy? The TV host, the TV host Ariel
Garland, that's who we wanted!

GAZ

Oh, I see.

Zelda drops down to his knees, quick panicked breaths.

GAZ (CONT'D)

I'll lay it out straight with you
mate.

ADNAN

Ha, you no straight.

Gaz and Adnan chuckle.

GAZ

Look look look, I wasn't really
paying attention when you were
telling me who to grab.

BARNEY

I didn't ask you to grab anyone!
You said we could 'meet' her, meet,
not grab.

GAZ

This was the only Ariel Garland I
could find, so I figured it was
him.

Zelda makes it back to his feet.

ZELDA

Wait, just wait for a fucking
second. So you don't know Ariel
Garland?

Gaz points to the Hostage.

ZELDA (CONT'D)

Not this guy, the fucking TV star!

GAZ

Oh that one, no, no I don't.

Zelda weeps. Adnan rubs his back for comfort.

Gaz places a hand on Barney's and Zelda's shoulders and leads
them away to one side.

GAZ (CONT'D)

Hate to bring this up now mate, but
er, you got what we agreed? I know
I got it a little bit wrong.

Zelda scoffs.

GAZ (CONT'D)

But I did still grab a guy, you
know, still stuck me neck out for
ya!

BARNEY

Fine! Whatever.

Barney leads them over to the bag of sand and points to it.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

There you go. You got like, a DIY
construction thing going on?

Gaz looks at the sand, glares at Barney.

GAZ

You 'avin a fucking laff?

BARNEY

What? No, you said you wanted a bag of sand!

GAZ

Is he 'avin a fucking laff?
A bag of sand, a grand, that's one thousand pounds to you fucking northern knob heads.

BARNEY

Oh! I see.

Gaz storms off towards the hostage.

GAZ

I don't fucking believe this.

Zelda and barney follow Gaz.

ZELDA

You, you thought this guy, could legitimately arrange a hook up with Ariel.

Barney nods.

ZELDA (CONT'D)

And you! not only did you think we wanted someone kidnapped, but you thought we wanted this guy?

The hostage watches, more puzzled than frightened.

ZELDA (CONT'D)

And you really thought, that he wanted paying with builders sand?

BARNEY

In my defence I didn't know he was committing a crime.

Zelda puts his hands on the back of his head.

ZELDA

How can this get any fucking worse.

Sirens wail outside. Everyone glares at the warehouse door. The sirens stop, a car door opens, a car door closes.

NEGOTIATOR (O.S)
Good evening. I am a police
negotiator, how are we in there?

ZELDA
How the fuck did they know?

Barney notices the hostage looking shifty, he moves round to his hands and wrestles a mobile phone from his grip. He holds it up for the others to see.

BARNEY
Open line to the police.

ZELDA
Shit! Shit shit shit.

BARNEY
You kidnap a guy, and don't check
his pockets for a mobile phone?

GAZ
My bad.

BARNEY
No bag of sand for you! You only
get half a bag now.

GAZ
A monkey.

Barney seethes.

BARNEY
I'm not getting you a fucking
monkey!

Barney holds his mouth for a second.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
Shit! Three years I have gone
without swearing!

Barney kneels on the ground.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
Shit, twat, Bollocks, tit wank! God
it feels so good.

Zelda rushes over to Barney, he cradles his head.

ZELDA
Come on mate, I need you. What the
fuck are we going to do.
(MORE)

ZELDA (CONT'D)

Oh my god, I'm gonna go to prison
aren't I. I can't go to prison,
I'll be bullied.

GAZ

They'll do more than bully you
mate.

NEGOTIATOR

Please respond. We need to know
everyone is OK in there.

Zelda kneels in front of the hostage.

ZELDA

Please, sir. We- we can just let
you go, and you tell 'em this was
all a big mistake, right? That can
work.

The hostage nods frantically.

GAZ

No fucking chance mate! Me and
Adnan swiped the guy, were not
going down because of your celeb
fetish!

Zelda stands up.

ZELDA

Please, please! We just explain.

GAZ

We will do this our way.

Adnan reaches both hands behind his back, pulling two
HANDGUNS from his trousers, holding them proudly in the air.

ZELDA

Oh my god! what the fuck?

Gaz swags to the warehouse door, pushes it slightly ajar.

GAZ

Listen 'ere filth! We're armed, so
you fuck off, we leave. Alright.

Zelda is a ghostly white, shaking.

ZELDA

We're gonna die, that's it. We're
gonna fucking die.

Adnan thrusts a handgun into Zelda's chest. Zelda squeals, smacks the gun to the floor. BANG. A round hits the wall.

Zelda screams like a child.

CRACK. The warehouse door flies open. Grenades roll in.

PUFF. Thick smoke emanates from them.

GAZ
Fuck you pigs!

Gaz picks up the handgun, him and Adnan fire blindly. POP, POP, POP.

Zelda screams more frantically, spinning on the spot, not knowing where to go.

Figures move through the smoke. Zelda flings his hands up.

ZELDA
I surrender, I surrender. Oh god
please I surrender.

Zelda squeezes his eyes tight.

CUT TO BLACK:

The sound of the smoke grenades die out, multiple footsteps hurry towards Zelda. He waits, waits to be grabbed. Nothing

FADE IN:

Zelda opens his eyes.

Ariel Garland, *the* Ariel Garland, stands in front of him. Television smile across her face, she brings a microphone to her ruby red lips.

ARIEL GARLAND
Zelda! my darling, you're the
latest victim of 'Chain Yankers'

Ariel giggles.

Zelda stares at her mesmerising face, eventually he glances around the room.

A TV crew stand behind Ariel, cameras pointing straight at Zelda. Gaz, Adnan and the hostage stand, grinning and clapping.

ARIEL GARLAND (CONT'D)

(To camera)

This was our best chain yank yet!
He's still in shock, let's see if
he can talk yet.

Zelda is frozen to the spot, mouth ajar. He spots Barney standing and clapping. Barney winks back.

BARNEY

(Mouthing)

You're welcome.

Ariel wheels around to Zelda, pushing the microphone up to his lips.

ARIEL GARLAND

Zelda, Zelda Zelda. How are you
feeling?

Zelda's eyes flicker between both of Ariel's. A smile creeps across his face.

FADE OUT.