

LOVE 2.0

by Andy McGregor



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Characters:
Suzie McClusky
Gary Roberts

First performed at the Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock, on the 26th February 2015 by:

Lucy Goldie - Suzie McClusky
Sam Keefe - Gary Roberts

Directed by Andy McGregor
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Sound Design by Andy McGregor
Production Manager – Colin Bell
Production Stage Manager – Fiona Burness
PR by Andrew Learmonth
Produced by Callum Smith

Sleeping Warrior Theatre Company would like to thank:
Julie Ellen, Gail Sneddon and everyone at the Beacon; Molly Vevers; Frazer Fyfe; Stuart McGregor at Surf Print; Eoin Carey; Emily Rowan; Paige at DPI; Emyr & Ruth at NEAT; Fiona Fergusson at Imagine; JTH charitable trust; Creative Scotland; Playwrights Studio Scotland; Susannah Armitage and Play, Pie and a Pint;

Love 2.0 was a co-production between Sleeping Warrior Theatre Company Ltd. and The Beacon Arts Centre, it was made possible through funding from Creative Scotland.



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(Gary and Suzie enter the space. They take various photos of themselves, they are not happy with the result, Suzie asks an audience member if they would take one, she's not happy with it. They go through various props - Suzie may use things like cuddly teddies, funny hats, perhaps one with lots of makeup whilst Gary is in front of cultural buildings, famous paintings and experiments in light. They are finally happy and they produce a glossy, large, photograph of their faces that they attach to their wall.)

Suzie Right... well it all started with Big Dave, he's this guy I know from college, and he tagged me in a photo. That was all it took. Amazing really, when you think about it.

Gary *(Every time he does a quote he does that thing with his fingers)* "Ever has it been that love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation". Khlil Gibran.

Suzie Well I was watching 1 Born Every Minute, it's my favourite show, I love it, when my phone beeped. I had a notification, someone called Gary wanted to be friends. I didn't know a Gary, so I wasn't sure, it just said that we both knew Big Dave.

Gary "The way to love everything is to realise that it might be lost" G.K. Chesterton.

Suzie I had a wee look at his photos, as you do, to see if he looked alright you know? To check he wasn't a paedo or something. There were some really nice pics of him.

Gary Those are quotes that immediately come to mind when talking about me and Suzie. Man it was a ride. And so was she... I'm joking. That's crude. It was a beautiful, almost impressionistic, time of my life.

Suzie *(she picks up a collection of photos by Gary's side)* The photos showed him reading poetry *(Gary acts out these photos)*, one of him thinking and then one of him writing, with a giant feather *(Gary pulls out a monstrously large quill)*, he looked really creative.

Gary So there I was, you know, normal Tuesday night, quill to ink, ink to paper - when I logged in. Big Dave had posted some photo of him with ... this... angel. Suzie McCluskey I clicked the tag . *(Suzie holds a red 'no entry' sign in front of her face)* Denied. Private, her whole profile. No access until we became friends. I've got 555 friends on facebook, I'm not joking, so what was one more? I clicked on her name, clicked on friend request and boom: job done. Then I just sat back and waited for her to accept, I couldn't wait to see her photographs. *(he gets out a box of kleenex)*

Suzie So I checked his relationship status...

Gary *(takes out a sticker and places it on himself)* It's complicated.

Suzie It's complicated? What does that mean? I had another wee look at his photos... were there any of a girlfriend? It didn't look like it. Most of the pics were just of him... on his own.

Gary I had a girlfriend. She isn't on Facebook. And she doesn't like her photo being taken....aaaand she lives in Canada. So... you know... that's just the way it was. But she was hot. A model. That's what she worked at, in Canada, it's a busy lifestyle... but she still had the time to send me love letters and the occasional sexy picture. I have them all filed in my drawer, they're private, so you can't see them...ever.

Suzie I didn't want to rush into this... I put my phone down and watched the end of *One Born Every Minute*, it was twins, it gave me time to think. What had I to lose? "Live a little Suzie, push the boat out." And that's exactly what I did. I hit accept. *(Sign turns to green)*

Gary Bingo. The fish had been caught, now to reel her in. First thing is check relationship status.

Suzie *(Pulls out sticker and attaches it to herself)* Single.

Gary Single. Perfect. Oh... before you think I'm playing away from home, this was actually a pretty emotional time for me because my... hot Canadian girlfriend had just died... of cancer... I won't go into details but it was tough... for us both. She hadn't been able to work for months... no hair, it's not attractive, so being a model... it kind of dried up for her... then she died. I was still grieving but you know, I had to move on and the first step was to change my relationship status to single. *(He places a new sticker over the old one)*

Suzie I had a wee look at his profile and it said he was single. It changed just like that. No longer 'complicated'.

Gary Now that I was granted full entry to her profile it was time to take action. When it comes to pulling girls online - pfff I didn't just read the book, I wrote it. No actually. I wrote it all down *(he produces a tome)* Lemme see... ya da ya da ya da... here we are. Chapter One: Laying the Trap - subheading: Gaining knowledge of subject through photographic evidence... This is a very simple chapter to understand... You might feel like you're invading their privacy or being a bit of stalker but... *(he gets out a telescope which extends to an enormous length, he focuses in on Suzie's photographs)* Nice. Christmas 2011 too many layers on, Disneyland 2006 too young. Ibiza Summer 2011 jackpot. *(Suzie jumps up and enacts the various photos)* At the airport, pictures of the sun, the view, ya da ya da, some friends....Bikini shots where are you, come on? Yes! Now is there one without the towel, yes... yes... ah... *(disappointment)* No luck there, the next stage is looking for drunken nights out, there can sometimes be a little bit of unintended tit action going on Yes! Sideboob!

Once again we are on our way... and a hot friend too are they gonna kiss? No... who's that? Awww, what's she doing?

Suzie It suddenly occurred to me that there were loads of really embarrassing photos of me and Enrique from our... liaisons last summer. I panicked. I admit it. I panicked. *(She picks up a bin and goes through photos, destroying those she doesn't like)* Fine, fine, fine, DESTROY, fine, fine, ahhh that's a nice one, DESTROY, DESTROY. Phew. I hope he didn't see them *(she drags the bin away)*.

Gary I went back again to have another look and the photos were gone. She was trying to send me a message. I could feel it. Now... *(returning to book)* Chapter 2: Securement: subheading: investigating your subjects interests. I clicked on Suzie's interests. It wasn't good. They did not make pleasant reading.

Suzie Badminton, 1 Born Every Minute, Contemporary Dance Class, Harry Potter open brackets the films not the books close brackets.

Gary And when it got to music things got even worse:

Suzie Rhianna, David Guetta, Sean Paul and Simply Red.

Gary Simply Red? Oh you beautiful fool. But seriously, who the fuck likes Simply Red?

Suzie I checked out Gary's interests. I didn't really understand them to be honest. They were mainly quotes from books and stuff.

Gary "Moderation is a fatal thing. Nothing succeeds like excess" Oscar Wilde.

Suzie He seemed like such a smart, sophisticated person.

Gary "Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old" Franz Kafka.

Suzie I couldn't possibly see how he could be interested in me. I mean, I'm just a trainee nursery nurse. He was studying:

Gary I.T. Management Systems at the University of Caledonian.

Suzie I don't even know what that is. So I went to bed that night thinking maybe I was being silly, getting all these ideas in my head. He wouldn't be interested in me.

Gary Chapter 3: Conjoinment: subheading: Convincing the other party you have shared interests. I put up a generic status update to the whole of Facebook, but really I was just wanting her to see it *(like a town crier, standing on a chair)* "Just watched 1 Born Every

Minute. Loved It. As Nietzsche said "You must have chaos within you to give birth to a dancing star." The fish was being reeled in. I could smell it.

Suzie I couldn't believe it. One... born... every.... minute. It was as if he knew. I really really wanted to like the status, but was that too forward?

Gary It was tense. Is she going to comment, like it maybe? Is she even awake?... it says she's online... Come on....

Suzie *(Sticks little thumbs up badge on Gary)* I LIKE THIS STATUS UPDATE. I did it.

Gary That little thumbs up said more to me than the deepest depths of the heart ever could. More importantly, I knew I was in there. To bed. A good nights work.

Suzie I couldn't sleep thinking about it. I was on a roll. I was on fire. I didn't just like his status. I actually wrote a comment too *(she writes this on a piece of paper, put it into an envelope, and rings the bell as a notification)*. I sent it. I was bold, courageous. I was pretty happy with myself. And then I went to sleep.

Gary Next morning I couldn't believe it! She had replied, just like that. *(He opens the envelope and shows us)* Smiley face and everything...things were moving faster than even I thought they would. It was a pretty special moment, I've got to tell you *(he folds the paper and tucks it into his crotch)*. Quick wee internet search later *(he moves around the room searching for a photo and, hiding it from the audience, finds a pic of Mick Hucknall, puts it into an envelope, rings the bell and hands it to Suzie)* and boom! Instant reply initiated: "The only thing that would make it better is if they used the song 'For Your babies' by Simply Red in the titles. They were the Beatles of the 90's."

Suzie It can't be... it's impossible... this can't be happening. He likes... it's true... 'For your babies' isn't one of their biggest hits. I mean it's no Money's Too Tight To Mention, he must be a fan *(holds out the pic of Mick Hucknall)*. He LOVES SIMPLY RED. OH. MY. GOD. Ohmygod ohmygod ohmygod... calm down Suzie, calm down.... where to go next?

Gary Chapter 4: Connection: Subheading: Making direct contact. Now this is the tricky part to initialise. I toyed with the idea of posting Stars or Fairground to her wall, to show my true devotion...

Suzie In my head there was only one possible way forward. I'm going to poke him. *(Suzie gets a giant blue hand and nervously crosses the stage)*

Gary I'm going to admit it, stage 4 has given me some significant problems in the past... I don't want to talk about that. So I started to think out of the box, what would a woman of

Suzie's joye di vivre appreciate. Of course, a Haiku. Simple, but impressive. I used to write these all the time at school...Emmmm...

Your eyes, touch Raindrops,
frizzing Like candy

Suzie Poke!

Gary ... she... she poked me.

Suzie It felt so good. Now I hoped... prayed that he would poke me back.

Gary I'm going to poke her back!... poke.

Suzie HA HA HA HA! He poked me. Now what do I do? Do I repoke...? Do I message him...? I don't know... I just don't know....

Gary Sod it. That's what I thought. Sod it. I'm going to poke her again, get this fish into the pan... poke...

Suzie Oh. He poked me again! Ha ha ha. Poke.

Gary Poke

Suzie Poke

(a flurry of poking ensues, Gary suddenly stops, leaving Suzie mid-poke)

Gary No more games.

Suzie Oh, he stopped poking me. Was it something I said?

Gary Chapter 4: appendix B, posting on the subject of interests wall... *(searching book)* I've got a good quote here somewhere... oh yeah... "give a little more, expose yourself." I needed to show her a different side to me. *(he goes to write on her wall)*.

Suzie I considered writing on his wall. But really the ball was in his court, he had already left me hanging with the whole poke fiasco. I didn't want to appear desperate. Even though I was.

(As she speaks Gary writes on her wall - these are pre-printed signs that are pinned up - "There was nowhere to go but everywhere" Jack Kerouac, after every posting they ring the bell to alert one another)

Suzie Phone beeps, you have a notification. I was thinking it was another poke, but no. No! It was more than that. Far more. He had left a message on my wall! A message! What was it? What is he saying?

Gary I casually left a quote from my favourite book *On The Road*, I'm a great admirer of (*Pronounced in French accent*) Jack Kerouac's work and this book, see that bit when he's actually. *On. The. Road. Wow!. Great... Pffffff.*

Suzie There... was nowhere to go.... I don't really understand what he means... I need to say something back.... (*She pins up LOL, rings bell*) Standard response. I hope that makes sense.

Gary LOL? She can't mean laugh out loud. That wouldn't make sense. Lots of love? She must really dig beat poets too. Cool. It's time to go in for the kill. Watch and learn people, watch and learn. (*Writes 'Let's hook up and talk about the beats babez'*)

Suzie Is he asking me... is he? Jesus christ! I think he is! I think he's asking me out! I was so happy...I... I think I may have started crying, or peed myself. Either way I was pretty excited.

Gary Now come on reply reply reply.

Suzie It truly looks like he is asking me out. Finally somebody that I actually fancy is asking me out! He has an interest in Simply Red, he's good looking, intelligent, he seems really sweet and sensitive.

Gary For fucks sake hurry the fuck up? Reply reply reply.

Suzie Well I just had to do it, didn't I? It was too good a chance to turn down. It was my... destiny... So I replied:

Gary I was pacing up and down in my kitchen, I couldn't concentrate, couldn't study, write... anything... and then it came through.

Both "Ye. lol."

Gary That's all I need, that's the ignition to this rocket, takeoff is imminent. Boom! I thought I'd wrap it all up with a little bit of magic show how deep my thinking really is. "Anticipation is the flower; devotion is the nectar that I sucketh boom! Gary Roberts 2015". It just came to me, like I grabbed it out of the air. It sounded like Shakespeare or Dickens or..... I thought it would really impress her, I impressed myself to be honest. Confidence was high. Facebook chat was calling.

Hi

(This next section words in this font are sung in a children's tv/cheesy musical fashion)

Suzie (sung) We're going on a date!
We're going on a date
At least that's what it seems
Oh, nerves have set in
I can barely even speak
Hark! Is that my phone starting to beep?

Gary r u there?

Suzie How should I reply? I'm really very nice
I don't want him thinking I'm not

Gary! Christ. Hellooooooooo

Suzie I want him to like me I'll try something like
Hi I think you're really really hot oh God... no no no no delete

Gary I can see you're typing, come on , helloooo... So you up for it?

Suzie Am I up for it?
Am I up for what?
Does he mean what I think he means?

Gary God she might that I'm
Talking about that *(does a disgusting sex gesture with his hands)*
Like I'm some kind of sex fiend
Up for a drink...
Alone...
With me...

Suzie This is fun!
You can do it Suzie
Go on you know you can
Respond and let him know he can be your man yeah lol

Gary She likes me. I can tell she likes me..

Suzie Ur cool.

Gary She REALLY likes me. I don't blame her. thanks baybz x Girls love those little x things. It means a kiss. So want to go out to moz (*long pause, he picks up a can of room freshener and sprays it*)? Refresh (*long pause and again sprays*). Maybe she's just thinking of the perfect wording. (*pause*) Yeah, that'll be it. Refresh....u there? One check's fine, no big deal maybe her computer's not working or something...Is ur computer not working or something? What's going on, refresh... I'll try it in firefox maybe it's Safari that's the problem. Just changing browser LOL. (*He picks up the bell and swaps it for a hooter*) Still no answer. What's going on? I mean seriously, it was back and forth, back and forth. I pop the big question and it's radio silence on all channels. Refresh (*an aggressive spray*). I don't get it...Has she been stringing me along...? No... course not... she's too stupid to fool me....Wait a minute... She knows Big Dave, that tosser. I'll bet it's him. Moved on from the happy slapping, and now this. Well it's not going to work. It's not going to work Big Dave d'ya hear me? So it's all been a set up from the start has it? I knew it. So... Suzie... if that is your real name, we'll soon see if you're still smiling at the end of this you slapper. Tart. Well looks like joke's on me you fucking slag I hope you die and

Suzie Hi! Just had a pee LMFAO!

Gary (deletes status) LOL. That's kewl! Really good to know

Suzie tomoz sounds gr8! Whr?

Gary Emmmm, ha!
How about Starbucks?

Suzie Hmmm, I was hoping for something a little more adventurous but I do like a nice skinny latte.

Great, see you there!

Gary Send her my number and boom, job done, the fish is eaten, time for dessert to be served.

Suzie/Gary. We're going on a date
We're going on a date We're going on a date
And I really really really really really Can't waaaaaaaait. (Song ends)

Suzie I've got a date. I've. Got. A. Date! My God! A date! I've got a motherfucking DATE!!!!!!
Get in! Ground thyself Suzie. Time to consult "Suzie's My perfect male Partner list (amended Nov 2014)". You have to know what kind of love you deserve to attract it. (*she unfurls a huge*

piece of paper). Height, check, prospects, check, estimated length of... yep. Gary's ticking all the boxes.

Gary So me and my hot Canadian girlfriend used to have sex all the time. She's dead now, so we don't really do it anymore, but we definitely did. Lots. Rampant. But things were getting a little bit rusty down below, I mean I turn girls down all the time, I'm not a man-tart, so I thought I better have a little look at different strategies to seduce the ladies. *(Pulls out a box of porn mags)* Library. My Videos. Don't want group. She's not asian, but she is a teen. Click. Right... I don't normally watch the start of these videos but there are lessons to be learned I'm sure...

Suzie Now.... now... what do I do... what do I wear... what do I say.... It's times like this that I turn to my best friend in the whole wide world: cosmopolitan.com. Search, 'how to impress a man on your first date'.... *(She picks up Cosmo magazine)* Now let me see... *(Gary becomes a "man" as Suzie becomes an American tv presenter)* "When approaching a potential life partner be sure that your wrists are fully visible. Wrists are one of your main erogenous zones and will release hormones in the male and will act as an aphrodisiac." *(Gary takes Suzie in his arms and they kiss Gone With The Wind style, he then barks like a sexed-up dog)*. I mean, it all seems so simple!

Gary You see the trouble is that most of the guys in these videos are mechanics, I know they're not in real life, they're porn stars, but, it seems to be saying that mechanics get laid a lot. Loads of plumbers too, but not many IT Management System Consultants. However there are a lot of techniques being used in the wooing process that I can master. One thing I picked up was that girls, before engaging in the sex, like to be offered money. Seems to work every time... That could be a way in... But I don't know, it could be a little coarse and I'm a little short, but she doesn't look that expensive.

Suzie *(still in Cosmo land)* Eye contact is vital to secure the partner of your choice. When approaching the gentleman *(she walks up to an audience member)* Be sure to be looking directly into his eyes. Then, after 3 seconds... 1,2,3, *(to audience member)* Sorry, this is a bit awkward... look to the floor *(she does so)* The gentlemen's loins will now be calling out for more attention, be careful not to give it to him until you have counted to 3 in your head. Then, raising your head slowly, seductively, re-engage the gentlemen with eye contact. He will be filled with desire and longing. *(to audience member)* Well? No? Mmmmm....

Gary A bit of further investigation uncovered a really excellent resource to help my pulling prowess grow. It's a book called 'The Game', it's written by this ultimate PUA - that's pick-up artist. Of course there was a lot I already knew, but one thing that was really interesting to me was a technique called the 'neg'. Basically you say negative things to the target to put her on the defensive and make her come at you even harder. It's scientifically proven to work every time any man has ever used it anywhere. It's a new technique for me, so I'm just gonna make a reminder in my phone *(phone makes a distinctive beep)*, just to make sure I remember to

pull it off in the heat of the moment. (*realising potential for a joke*) That's not the only thing that's going to be pulled off! Get it?

Suzie So it seems that some tips were better than others... But I was confident that I was nothing if not prepared.

Gary We hadn't really arranged a time to meet or anything, (*nervously*) that's the way I like it...

Suzie We hadn't arranged a time to meet. I sent him a little text, nothing special (*texts are represented by post-it notes stuck onto the recipient*).

Gary She sent me a really dirty message. Pretty naughty actually.

Suzie Just saying 'here's my number, look forward to meeting you'.

Gary I... I can't read it out, it wouldn't be appropriate. I wanted to up the ante. Really show her what I was packing but also that I had a good sense of humour. I sent her a cheeky wee reply. It involved the time to meet and a wee photo of... something else too, just to whet her appetite.

Suzie He sent me a text and a photo, but there's something wrong with my phone so I can't download images... I'll never know what it was. I got home from my contemporary dance class, had a shower and started to get ready. This could be it. This could be the one.

Gary So I was all set, ready to go. 4...no 12 condoms in the wallet and I head out into the night.

Suzie's "My perfect male partner list (amended November 2014) CHECK. B.O. Blocker pads - Suzie will sweat for no man - CHECK, wrists and other erogenous zones... CHECK. With this kind of prep it's almost certain he's going to kiss me. All I want is a little snog ... tongues would be nice.

Gary I got there early. A real nice spot, private, pleasant ambience.

Suzie I am a strong and confident female with love, light and joy to share with the world. I must state my needs as a woman clearly and assertively. Be the tigress.

Gary I ordered myself a ... christ... eh... can I have a ...Long .. Black. Coffee? What? Yeah, that'll do.

Suzie Hey, Gary this is ME. Take it or leave it.

Gary "Certainly sir, do you want to make that large?"

Suzie Be yourself, be yourself..."heeeeyy, Gary!"

Gary A large? Is the pope catholic?

Suzie Hiiiiii.

Gary At the end of the night it's not just going to be my drink that's large.

Suzie HI!!!. Jesus...

Gary Get it? I'm talking about my COCK.

(Gary sits down and Suzie enters, we enter real-time and the fourth wall magically appears)

Suzie Hi!

Gary A'rite.

Suzie I'm Suzie.

Gary I know.

Suzie How you getting on?

Gary

Suzie So... you've ordered then...

Gary *(Silence, he gestures to the counter)* Help yourself.

Suzie Ok. Great. I'll be right back. *(She starts to go)* A skinny latte please. No... Not grande thanks... got to watch the weight! Ha ha ha. Suzie with a 'Z' *(She gets out her phone as she waits)*. Oh... he's checked in! ... *(She replies. Silence as she waits for her coffee, they both fiddle on their phones. Gary's beeps as Suzie's notification pops up. He turns round and gives her a slight grin. They laugh as awkwardly as it's possible for two humans to laugh. She finally gets her drink and brings it back to the table, she has no chair, she awkwardly drags one into place, trying not to spill her coffee. She sits. Silence.)* Got it!

Gary Cool....

Suzie You checked in!

Gary Yeah.

Suzie I replied.

Gary Yeah. I liked it.

Suzie Did you? (*Gets her phone out*) So you did.

Gary Yeah.

Suzie Sooooo....

Gary (*Still on his phone*) Two secs...

Suzie Sure... What you reading?

Gary This? (*hides it*) Oh, it's called the Game.

Suzie Oh right. What's it about?

Gary Stuff.

Suzie Like football. Do you like football?

Gary Men and woman and that.

Suzie (*interested*) Uh huh?

Gary Do you like football?

Suzie No, not really.

Gary Neither do I.

Suzie Great! Well that's something we have in common.

Gary S'ppose... (*Goes back to phone*)

Suzie What you doing...on your phone there?

Gary Just tweeting.

Suzie *(pause, she decides to start again)* Mmmm, this coffees nice. How's yours?

Gary I've finished it.

Suzie Right. So you got here early?

Gary *(Doing something very important on his phone)* What?

Suzie You got here early then?

Gary Yeah. Suppose.

Suzie *(Pulls her wrists out)*. So, you like Simply Red?

Gary No... oh... I mean yeah. Love them. All their songs.

Suzie What's your favourite, I mean other than 'For Your Babies'?

Gary Eh... *(Googles)* ...My favourite... is... there's.... so many... hard to pick. A new flame...

Suzie Yeah. I like that one. *(Sings and does some odd dancing)* A new flame has come....

Gary *(Looking around in case anyone just saw that)* Yeah.

Suzie It's a weird band to like! I couldn't believe it when you said you listened to them! I'm just into them because of my mum I suppose, she used to sing to me in my cot. Stars, that was her favourite song...

Gary Hold it... *(Gary moves Suzie into a photographic pose)* Smile... smile! *(he takes photo)*
Got it. *(He looks at phone and laughs to himself)*.

Suzie So you're really into Social networking then?

Gary No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no ... more, like, erm, like poetry. And stuff.

Suzie I don't really know about that kind of thing, it's really interesting though... I'm being naughty tonight.

Gary Oh yeah?

Suzie I'm missing jazz class.

Gary Oh.

Suzie I love it. I've been doing it since I was wee. Have you ever danced?

Gary Pffff. No... Well, when I'm out clubbing and we're all off our faces then yeah, course I dance.

Suzie Do you go out clubbing a lot then?

Gary Oh yeah. All the time.

Suzie Where do you go?

Gary Hmmm?

Suzie What clubs do you go to?

Gary Lots.

Suzie I go to the Shed...

Gary Yeah... me too, the Shed.

Suzie It's good isn't it?

Gary Yeah. Love it. Banging tunes.

Suzie They don't play Simply Red though!

Gary No! No they don't.

Suzie I've never seen you there.

Gary *(pause)* I've seen you. Moving.

Suzie Ooooooooo...k/

Gary /but I just like to stay with the boys you know. Bros before ho's, that's me.

Suzie Do you go to any of the clubs in town?

Gary In town...Other than the Shed?

Suzie Well it's not really in town is it?

Gary No, I mean it's not... exactly...well when I'm not at the Shed I'm at... Garden...

Suzie Garden?

Gary Gardners. Love Gardners. It's small so...

Suzie I've never heard of...

Gary No, it's really small.

Suzie Right.

Gary It's dead exclusive.

Suzie Sounds really...

Gary They probably wouldn't let you in...

Suzie Cool. (*silence, phone rings*)

Gary Just a minute, I've got to take this. (*Picks up phone*) Shoot. Uhhuh. Right. Well how should I know? Fine. (*Hangs up*). Big Dave.

Suzie Oh. I know Big Dave! He's a really nice guy...

Gary(*looks at phone*)

Suzie Wow, is that the time... well I think I had better...

Gary No!

Suzie Sorry?

Gary Don't go yet... I've got...some really great... Simply Red stuff to show you.

Suzie Really? What have you got?

Gary Eh, well...(*His phone rings again*). Fucks sake... two seconds. What? I told you I don't know! I'm with her right now... yeah, (*Giving Suzie a not altogether admiring look*) alright, I'd say she's a five... no... at least not yet...what? Of course she's real! Have you ever been to

Canada? No, so shut the fuck up. (He hangs up) Big Dave, he's always going about Canada...

Suzie What ha....

Gary Oh I had an ex who lived there.

Suzie Oh right...

Gary Oh no it's fine she's dead. She had cancer...

Suzie Oh... that's terrible... how awful... my mum had that, but they caught it in time. What kind of cancer did she have?

Gary The... hip...

Suzie Cancer of the hip?

Gary ...yeah...

Suzie Was it malignant?

Gary Ehhh... don't know... she was killed in a car...plane crash before she found out...

Suzie That's awful... really awful...

Gary Yeah. I'm just getting over it actually.

Suzie Poor you... *(she touches his hand, he crosses his legs, something's moving down there, she withdraws her hand. Pause. Gary's alarm goes)*. Is that a reminder? *(hopeful)* You got somewhere else to be?

Gary No.. I don't know what that... *(look at it)* oh yeah.

Suzie So it's been really nice...

Gary You're fat.

Suzie Pardon?

Gary Yeah I mean I like a girl who carries a few extra pounds. Love it.

Suzie

Gary Fatty, fat fat.

Suzie I don't... are you negging me?

Gary Huh?

Suzie Negging, you're negging me.

Gary No.

Suzie Yes you are!

Gary Yeah. Maybe.

Suzie Well stop it. It's ridiculous.

Gary Yeah. Right.

Suzie It's been... *(trying to be polite)* well it's been nice to meet you Gary.

Gary O brought some money *(puts a bag of change on the table)* I don't know if that's enough....

Suzie You want to give me money? Is it for the coffee?

Gary No...no it's for... *(he looks at her trying to suggest sex through the power of his mind and facial expressions, this should take at least 45 seconds and should involve a number of funny faces of a sexual nature. In the end he fails to convey his message)*... Yeah... it's for the coffee... How much was it?

Suzie I don't really know why I stayed as long as I did... I guess I kept hoping things would perk up....

Gary The date went pretty well all things considered, I kept it short and sweet... always leave them gagging for more, that's my... motto. I mean I didn't get to second base.... Or first base for that matter but... her wrists man... her wrists were really something.

Suzie It was such a disappointment. He was nothing like what I thought he'd be. He was distant and a little bit... I don't know.... Creepy?

Gary So it looked like the Garatron, that's me, still had some work to do. I sent her a message: *(text messages are represented by post-it notes that are stuck onto Suzie)* great date babez, when do you want to hook up next?

Suzie He messaged me on the way home. I just left it.

Gary A few minutes went by and nothing. Maybe she's in the loo again? So I left a funny wee message: enjoy your number 2! LOL. I think we were at the stage where we could make jokes like that.

Suzie He then sent me something about a number 2. I just ignored it as well.

Gary I left it then, and went out with for a few pints with... the boys, the lads, just my mates really... I was kind of stumbling home, and I left her another wee gem -

Suzie Three am. gfhjf suehe hes

Gary *(big laugh)* just great... banter. One more wee text to remind her about changing her relationship status, then to bed.

Suzie The next morning, I wasn't even that bothered. It really didn't matter to me. Sure there was a pang of disappointment but there is a reason why I have my Perfect Male Partner List, to stop me falling into the abyss of a horrible relationship with someone I don't really like just so that I have a longterm partner and therefore boost my self esteem even though their very presence eats away at my soul on a daily basis, I will never do that. NEVER!

Gary It was about 12 before I woke, a little bit of vomit lying next to my pillow. Shit happens, you've got to roll the dice and keep on moving baby. I checked my phone again - still nothing. *(Suzie is sitting on the table and is slowly covered in the postits as Gary gets more and more frantic)* Babez are you ok?

I really liked meeting you last night... Hope you had good time.

Coffee is good eh? LOL.

Are you there babez?

Let me know you're there? Please!!!

Hope you didn't get raped on your way home! LOL. *(Realisation that that was inappropriate)*

Sorry about that rape joke. Rape's not funny. Lol

Oh come on Suz, it wasn't that bad was it?

The date... not the rape joke. ALL rape jokes are bad. They're not even jokes really. lol

I really like you I hope you liked me.

Suzie?

Suzie So I was in college all day... after I was done I checked my phone and I had... well... hundreds of texts from Gary. *(She starts to pull the messages off)* They were really really sad.

And actually offensive. I didn't want to see him again but I wanted to let him down gently, it was only fair that I told him, face to face. It was the right thing to do. Of course, I couldn't be in the same room with him, that would be horrible. *(singing)* You on skype?

Gary Suzie!!! HELLO! Yes, gorgeousgary21 is my username

Suzie Let's talk. I'm free next Friday at 5.00

Gary Cool babez. Can't wait!

Suzie *(Speaking)* Oh dear. I don't think he fully understands. Never mind...

Gary It was a long few days. I love internet chat. Totally love it. Maybe we would have a bit of private cam to cam action? I don't know. I wondered what else I could do in the meantime, to keep the flame a burning, the spark a sparking.... *(lightbulb moment)* I know!

Suzie Big Dave was telling me all about Gary, how he's a loner that stays in his room all day and night, only leaves to go to the pub and drink on his own. I felt sorry for him, I truly did. I wanted to help. Better over and done with sooner rather than later I suppose. *(She picks up a plastic cup attached by a piece of string)* Open Skype:

Gary She's online! *(Casual)* How fortunate that I happen to be online too. Press the little green button and....

Suzie Oh... that was quick...

(They turn to face one another)

Gary A'right *(Puts on a ridiculous red wig)*

Suzie Hi Gary.

Gary Gary? Who's Gary, don't you mean Mick! Eh.

Suzie Right.

Gary Mick Hucknall?

Suzie Yeah I get it out.

Gary Want to go to out with Mick? Tonight?

Suzie Eh well... I don't ...

Gary Tomorrow's fine with me too. Whenever suits babez...

Suzie Please don't call me babez.

Gary No problem sweetcheeks.

Suzie Just ... maybe call me Suzie.

Gary Yeah... sure... Suzie.

Suzie I don't think I want to go out with you Gary.

Gary Let me just check my schedule... next week's pretty free too... I'm sure I could fit you in only two nights with the boys down so far!

Suzie I don't want to go out at all.

Gary What?

Suzie I don't want to...

Gary You haven't changed your status on Facebook yet! Kind of left me hanging. But no bother.

Suzie I'm not going to change it.

Gary I can come round and show you how to do it.

Suzie Gary. Are you listening?

Gary I know where you live.

Suzie Stop talking.

Gary I can change it. Two seconds, that's all it takes. Not even.

Suzie Gary!

Gary Yep...

Suzie Don't speak. Don't say anything.

Gary *(nodding frantically)*....

Suzie I'm not going to change my relationship status on Facebook, not because I don't know how to, but because ... because I don't want to go out with you.

Gary Oh...

Suzie It was nice to meet you and stuff. But... you're not my type I guess or something... it's not me it's you... I mean it's not you it's me...

Gary Before you say anything else!

Suzie Well I...

Gary Shhhh

Suzie Look I really...

Gary BE QUIET!

Suzie Ok.

Gary I've been working really hard at this. For you. Just for you. *(he places the 'camera' down)* Can you still see me?

Suzie Ehhh, yes.

Gary Right. *(he rips off his clothes to reveal a leotard)*

Suzie

Gary You said you loved dancing... well... I've never told anyone this... but you're not the only one. *(he puts on some music)*

Suzie Gary, no.

Gary This is for you.

Suzie You don't need to do this...

Gary Just wait a minute...

Suzie I'll hang up if you start dancing, turn that music off! *(he dances for a bit)* I'm hanging up!

Gary *(he stops)* Don't! I'm... sorry

Suzie You... What the hell is this? You're not listening Gary. You're just not listening.

Gary I...

Suzie No! You need to hear what I'm saying. I need to make it crystal clear. I don't want to see you. Ever. I don't want to see you ever again. The date was a disaster, we are totally different kinds of people...

Gary Please. Suzie. I'm sorry you think it didn't go well. I'm a really nice guy, honest...

Suzie I'm sure you are...

Gary I was nervous. I don't normally talk to girls, girls don't normally talk to me... come on Suzie give me one more chance.

Suzie I'm sorry Gary...

Gary We can go to the cinema or something. I'll pay and everything...

Suzie I can't be any clearer...

Gary I'll take you somewhere fancy to eat. You ever been to Nandos?

Suzie This is ridiculous...

Gary I'm lonely Suzie. *(pause)* I've never told anyone this before. But I'm... I like you. And I think you could like me. Please, give it another chance, I'll try harder... Who was that?

Suzie What?

Gary That just walked by....

Suzie That's my ... dad... I've got to go...

Gary Was that Big Dave?

Suzie No...

Gary There he is again. That is Big Dave! Big... Dave...Why... why's he not wearing any clothes?

Suzie Dave... Dave...

Gary Big Dave's naked...

Suzie *(Still to Dave)* Go back into the bedroom... *(giggle)* Stop it.... I'm really sorry then Gary... see you around eh? *(She rips the string out of the cup, Gary slowly reels it in)*. Did I mention that Big Dave... well after we had our little chat about Gary... we really clicked... did I mention that? No? Oops. Anyway, we are really hitting it off - they don't call him Big Dave for nothing. And he's a gentleman that's two of my criteria fulfilled before we even get started. He's not intimidated by a strong, confident female. He listens and registers my feelings and my needs. He's excited about exploring the physical side of our relationship but also respectful of my vagina.

Gary Well... you know... it's better to have loved and lost than to.... Big Dave...? What's he got that I haven't got? Apart from confidence and a giant penis. But Suzie isn't as shallow as that. *(pause)* Of course! She doesn't know the real me, the dancing was a mistake, I can see that now... it isn't who I am. I have qualities... talents. I don't know if I mentioned it, I probably didn't - curse you modesty - but I'm a bit of a musician. Garageband and all that. I thought Suzie might like to see that side of me, so I wrote her a song. Casual, no big deal. I fired it up on Youtube. Boom. *(Gary is now sat at a keyboard in a YouTube video)* This song....ehhhhh.... this song is for Suzie.

(He sings)

Love is like a cave
That burrows the earth
Like a rabbit with teeth
And you are perfect
I don't believe in love songs
They're for the hunted and the slow
But you and me baby
We got places to go

I'd climb a mountain of tears
I'd swim a river of melancholy
I'd shout from the valley of fears
Come with me and we can be jolly

Suzie Thursday morning was sooo embarrassing. He had posted this video to my wall.... it was horrific... I mean... I was actually quite scared.

Gary I wanted to communicate to her what our life, our eternity could be like together. *(The song moves up a key)*

Yes I'd climb a mountain of *(Suzie turns it off)*

Suzie It had gone too far. Big Dave was totally raging, I had to stop him from going round to Gary's house and beating him up - luckily neither of us knew where he lived. I tried to explain that he's just lonely, misguided, a little bit... eccentric, but Dave got really funny with me he wanted to know why I was so protective.

Gary The youtube comments started coming in. *(He empties a bin and reads folded up messages)* "OMG. What a dick". "This guy is totes a fandan". "I've shat out better songs than this", "I went to school with him, he was a loser then and looks like he is still a loser now." "GFHTB" - I have no idea what that means. "Stephen Hawking's a better singer than this fuckwit" "This is the saddest thing I've ever seen and I watched my dad die." *(the voices of the various people start to play and overlap, there are hundreds of them as Gary empties the bucket)*. Ok I get it!

Suzie Dave grabbed my phone to see what "really went on between us". He started going through all my messages. I didn't like that...didn't like it at all.

Gary I made a tit of myself... I get it. It's easy to sit behind your little computer screen and type yer insults but try saying it to my face eh? No, you're only safe doing it behind your phones and hunched over your keyboards. Cowards. The lot of you. Trolls.

Suzie What happened next... well. It was horrible.

Gary The whole internet is laughing at me.

Suzie When Dave went searching through my old texts he found that photo, the one I couldn't download, that Gary had sent me - he did something...I don't know... and there it was.

Gary *(quietly)* Why would she do this to me?

Suzie It was horrific...

Gary My phone kept beeping. Notification after notification. Twitter, Snap-chat, Facebook, Instagram...

Suzie *(Pause)* When he found it Dave was crying with laughter, I mean really crying.

Gary Spotty Derek from third year started trolling me... that's how bad it was.

Suzie It was a picture of his... He was wearing a cowboy hat... I don't know why... ... but it was a picture of him... with his (*mouthed*) willie. It was flaccid. At least. But it was a picture of him with a cowboy hat and his flaccid willy.

Gary My phone just kept beeping.

Suzie I tried to stop Dave, I tried to delete it but he had already sent it to his phone and after that ... well. It was on Twitter, snap-chat, facebook, Instagram, messenger, reddit... it was like a virus, it spread everywhere, people were photoshopping all sorts of things. And I couldn't stop it.

Gary What had I ever done to her? We had a crap date, I was awkward, I negged her, I sent her a picture of my penis, I texted her jokes about rape, I tried to pay her for sex but... is that any reason to do... this...still they came, the tags, the notifications...

Suzie Poor Gary. That's all I could think. Poor, poor Gary. Well that was a side to Big Dave that I did not expect, and it also turns out he was shagging his ex - Sarah McKaskill from Coatbridge - all the time we were going out. No. He'd broken almost every rule on Suzie's Perfect Male Partner list. So he was gone. Him, and his enormous package, were out of the door.

Gary There's people slagging me off left right and centre, jocks from America getting involved, some 13 year old from Brazil posted a video with my animated penis singing 'Let It Go' ... two million views and counting. My phone just kept on beeping.

Suzie I wanted to get in touch to let him know it wasn't me that shared the photo, that it was stolen from me, that I would never do that. He must know that, right? That I would never do that to him, to anyone!

Gary (*Looking at his wall*) This isn't me. (*To his facebook page*) That isn't me. (*He starts to tear it apart*) I don't know what Beat-hoven sounds like. I don't care. I like One Direction ok? I don't find them that attractive but I like their tunes, they're catchy. Books. I don't really read books. I like playing video games, I'd beat your ass at FIFA any day and I've completed Grand Theft Auto 4 ... twice ... if I read anything then it's comics, especially the Ultimate Spiderman and I enjoy watching re-runs of Dad's Army and I've always wanted to play in a band but never had the guts to go for it and I like computer programming and I hate my course at Uni but I'm going to go through with it anyway so I can get a decent job and make a decent wage and live a decent, mediocre, un-interesting life, barely a blip on the world. That's me - Gary Roberts. (*he goes crazy, throwing his profile away and smashing it into bits*). I need to breath. (*Pause*) I really need to breath. (*He exits*)

Suzie I finally built up the courage to get in touch, apologise, even though it wasn't my fault, but you know - he didn't know that. I went onto Facebook. He wasn't there. His whole

profile was gone. Same with his Skype, and Twitter and Instagram, snap-chat, four-square, Myspace - even his Bebo had vanished. I text. No reply. I phoned, yes I actually phoned him. Number no longer exists. He had just disappeared. And so, time went on. Like it does. I was single and loving it. *(Trying to convince herself)* Really loving it. College was ticking along nicely, the new series of One Born Every Minute was of a very high quality, Simply Red announced a new tour. It was all really good, I should have been happy. But... I couldn't shake Gary off. Where was he? I had to find out what happened to him... So, I turned detective. It's kind of fun actually. I went to Caley uni and hung around the student cafe bit. The first week I thought I saw him in the distance but he was gone before I really knew. The second week was useless, so was the third. And now it's the fourth, I'll give up after today, I can't go on like this. *(we snap into Caley Uni cafe, Suzie is waiting and looking, she is reading a book and every now and again looks up. Gary finally enters, he looks good, he is dressed like an average student would dress, the clothes suit him. He doesn't see Suzie but she sees him).* Gary! Gary! GARY! *(he turns around. He doesn't know what to do).* Hi. It's me. Suzie.

Gary What you doing here?

Suzie I've been waiting. Looking. For you. This is the fourth week I've ...

Gary Why?

Suzie Well. To say sorry.

Gary Sorry?

Suzie For what happened. I mean, I'm not really saying sorry. Because I didn't do anything, so not sorry sorry, what I'm saying is...I just wanted to see that you were alright but now I see that you are that you look good you really do look /good and

Gary /it's fine. Thanks.

Suzie It had nothing to do with me. The whole photo being shared thing. You know that don't you? It was all...

Gary Big Dave.

Suzie Yes, it was all Big Dave...

Gary He told me.

Suzie Oh.

Gary I bumped into him at the snooker club the other day. He tried to humiliate me again. He failed.

Suzie Right.

Gary I've started playing snooker. It's good.

Suzie Snooker.

Gary On a Tuesday. I'm part of the team now. Squash on a Wednesday, Football on Saturday's and I'm on the equalities committee here, we meet Thursday afternoons.

Suzie Oh.

Gary Yeah. I'm quite into that. You know, everyone being treated the same, equal opportunities for all. I like it.

Suzie Great. That's really great. Would you... would you like to join me?

Gary I've got a class...

Suzie Oh, right.

Gary There's a few minutes before it starts. *(He joins her)*.

Suzie I almost can't believe it's you. I didn't realise how hard it was to track somebody down without the internet.

Gary The trolls can't reach me anymore. It took some time to adjust, I'm not going to lie, and now I've got snooker, my committees. And I have actual friends. Real friends.

Suzie Sounds like you've been busy.

Gary I've got loads of time now.

Suzie You know Big Dave and I...

Gary Split up.

Suzie Yeah. How did you...

Gary He's a dick.

Suzie Yeah he is.

Gary And you're sweet.

Suzie ... thanks ... I was really worried about you...

Gary No need. I'm here. And I'm happy, and I'm better than I've ever been. And in a weird, roundabout way, it's all because of you.

Suzie That's really nice of you to

Gary Oh... And I've got a girlfriend.

Suzie Oh. *(pause)* That's good. What's her name.

Gary Tania.

Suzie Nice...name.

Gary She's on the same course as me. From Norway.

Suzie Oh I see.

Gary We're only a couple of weeks into things but it's going great. Here's a photo.

Suzie ...I'm really happy for you.

Gary So now Big Dave's out of the picture, have you got a boyfriend?

Suzie No. Not me.

Gary Awww.

Suzie I don't mind. Good things come to those who wait!

Gary Yeah. That's what I used to think. *(Pause)* Class is about to start...

Suzie Sure. It's been really nice seeing you Gary. Really nice. It's great to see you've come so far.

Gary And I haven't topped myself.

Suzie And you haven't topped yourself.

Gary Nice to see you Suzie. *(He moves in a kisses her on the cheek)* It was a real pleasure.

Suzie I'll see you some other time then??

Gary I've got a new number, but I've still got yours.

Suzie Oh, a new number? *(Getting out her phone)*

Gary Yeah.

Suzie *(Awkward pause, she realises she isn't getting the number)* Ok. Then. Great. Text me.

Gary See you.

Suzie See you. *(To audience)* I was sooooo happy for Gary. He really seemed like he had turned it around. He was happy, confident... he looked great. A whole new person, the real him.

Gary *(Picks up his large book of pick-up tips)* Chapter 5 - Deception - pretend to show that you're a whole new person the "real you". This is a new chapter, I'm writing it as we speak. Did you see how crazy Suzie was for me, she literally left a wet patch on her seat?

Suzie I admit it... I actually felt a little disappointed when he said he had a girlfriend...

Gary The creation of a viable girlfriend and giving the impression that you are comfortable in life, happy with your lot and doing great makes girls drip like a leaky tap.

Suzie I just didn't get him first time round he's ... quirky. Oh well. I'll wait for now. Who knows. Maybe he'll send me a wee text some time.

Gary I'll wait a few days, weeks even, I've learned this is a long game, then I'll drop her a little text and next thing you know we'll be shagging into the sunset. BOOM!

(‘I Climbed A Mountain of Tears’ comes on - full-on rock. They dance. Gary is on top of the mountain of love, he invites Suzie but she is unsure and turns away. Gary moves over to the wall with the quotes and hugs it, he then sits down and produces a box of Kleenex, he removes three sheets. Decides to make it four. He then pulls out his library of porn, licks his finger and moves through the pages. Fade to black.)