

STARS

by

Mark Lingane

Mark Lingane
3 Vinter Place
The Gap
Qld, 4061
0467 531 718
ilingane@me.com

EXT: DISMAL DAY IN DUBLIN.

Kenneth walks up the street checking the street numbers against a piece of paper he's holding. The street is full of upmarket Georgian houses. He enters the gate and walks up to the front door and knocks. Daph opens the door.

DAPH is a 15yo girl, thin with blonde hair that falls down her back. She pulls her hair back and lets it fall over her shoulder.

DAPH (SHOUTING OVER SHOULDER)
Da, there's a man at the door. He's
wearin' a suit.

She glances back at his crumpled outfit.

DAPH (CONT'D)

Sort of.

RORY (SHOUTED FROM INSIDE HOUSE)
If he's from the bank, give him a
kicking.

Daph leans against the doorframe and glares at him while twister her hair.

DAPH
Are ya from the bank?

KENNETH
You know I heard that, right? No,
I'm from Sony BMG.

DAPH (SHOUTING OVER SHOULDER)
Da, is Sunny Beam Energy a bank or
collector?

RORY (SHOUTED)
What the ... what are you talking
about?

SFX: A loud crackle as an instrument is unplugged. Rory descends from the second story.

RORY, a 50yo man, has a healthy complexion. He is thin, with a grey ponytail and a neatly trimmed beard. He wears turtleshell glasses, which he removes to talk.

KENNETH
You're Rory Lachlan.

Rory looks him up and down.

RORY
It depends.

KENNETH
Of course. Daphne Lachlan. Daughter
of Rory Lachlan.

He points between the two.

RORY
You from that show 'Who do ya think
you are?' I told them before I
wasn't interested. We live a quiet
life here, and that's the way I
like it.

Rory folds his arms and leans against the doorjamb.

KENNETH
This is totally an OMG moment for
me. You were my idol. Your Berlin
sessions changed my life.

RORY
Changed my life, too.

He lets out a low chuckle, then stops abruptly when Daph
frowns at him.

RORY
Wait. Before ya get all *Fatal*
Attraction on me, who is this Sunny
Beam--

KENNETH
Sony. Sony BMG. The label.

RORY
Jesus, Daph, were you wearing
earplugs? How can you mishear ...
never mind. What does the mighty
Sony want from me?

KENNETH
Ah. Er. Well, it's actually ...
Daphne we want.

RORY (DISMAY/DISBELIEF)
What!

KENNETH
We've got a special project. We're
putting together three young--

RORY
No way. We're not interested.

Rory slams the door, fuming.

DAPH (PLEADING)
Da, what are ya doing?

She grabs his arm.

DAPH (CONT'D)
Sony came to our door. They want me.

RORY
So does that ponce Billy from number fifteen, but he ain't getting his mits on ya either.

DAPH
But it's Sony. Don't ya want to hear what they've got to say--do you mean Billy Thurstone?

RORY
You can't trust these labels. Trust me. I've seen it and been it all. It is not how it looks. Yea, Thurstone. He's always in a uniform, looking neat.

DAPH (HESITANT)
I thought he was going to play rugby.

RORY
Apparently not. He's joined the Man. Air Force, Navy Force or something.

Waves hand dismissively, then points his finger at her.

RORY (CONT'D)
Don't you dare think of seeing him. I've seen that look in your eye before. He's a full fourteen months older than you, and that's a cradle snatcher in my book.

Daph stomps two steps up the staircase (so she is taller than him) then turns.

DAPH (ANGRY)

Da, you cannot tell me who I can or cannot see. You do this every time. You were the same with Ryan.

RORY

Ryan. Ryan! Let me tell you something about Ryan. He played a Les Paul. Now I like to think I'm as open-minded as the next man, but I'm not having my daughter fraternising with the enemy.

DAPH

Da, it was never about the guitar. The guitar doesn't define you. You define the guitar. That's what you said.

RORY

Well, you can say anything out of context. But I never meant it about a *Les Paul*. Good grief there has to be standards. And that is the end of the subject. And you can get back up stairs and practice your Frijian scales.

DAPH (SHOUTING)

How appropriate.

She runs up the stairs.

RORY

And you're not joining ... whoever ... Sony either. Christ, he'll still be there.