GLAMAZONS

Written by Cynthia Garbutt

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EXT. LOCATION: SOHO, LONDON. EVENING. MIDSUMMER.

Song: Take A Walk On The Wild Side, Lou Reed.

Alexus walks along the street, to H-aven & HELL's backstage door ("e" missing). Men shouting calls at her. Alexus opens the door, enters, looks into the camera, says dialogue. All anacronyms, nomenclature, slang are spelled out in animated clouds, on screen.

ALEXUS (O.C.)

Bunch of wankers. You wouldn't get laid, in a zipper club.

INT. BACKSTAGE CLUB: HEAVEN & HELL. EVENING.

**ALEXUS** 

You know how it is, you work and slave for something for so long. Would you please turn that music off. I'm talkin' here, mate.

Song ends.

ALEXUS (CONT'D)

Thank you! Now where was I ... slaving. Yeah, something that you think will really make a difference in your life. You make three steps forward and then fall on your arse. Going absolutely nowhere. Doomed to stay in the pothole you're in. And you've gotten to the point that you say, "Life is like a whore, that spends all her time on her back and never gets paid, her pimp takes all the money." That's what happened to me and my best mate Cheekey. Just when we were about to toss everything out. We got lucky, real lucky. Or so we thought.

INT. LATER. LOCATION BACKSTAGE CLUB: HELL.

Sound: live band music playing in the background. Song: The Stripper, David Rose & His Orchestra.

Alexus walks through corridors, greets crew and club staff.

ALEXUS

Hello! Good evening!

Alexus and Cheekey greet each other with an air kiss on both cheeks, near the dressing room. Lady Goddiva passes by them. Stops speaks to Alexus.

CHEEKEY

Ah! Sexcretary - I like it. Aren't getting much sleep, are we luv?

**ALEXUS** 

It's just temporary, stress. I'll be fine.

CHEEKEY

Honestly, I'm all for your vegan health kick routine. But it's too strict and so bland. I couldn't be bothered. Eat a little fat now and then. You'll sleep much better on a full stomach and more alcohol.

LADY GODDIVA

Fat is really good for your brain.

CHEEKEY

It's not her brain, I'm worried about. If you don't use it - it'll fall right off. Trust me. And get yourself a boyfriend! Nothing like earth-shattering orgasms, to set you right.

ALEXUS

You can afford the calories, I can't. I don't have an hourglass, like you.

Cheekey sensually running her two hands down Cheekey's sides.

CHEEKEY

Yes, I know. Some girls have it and others never will. But I do applaud you for your efforts, my dear.

CHEEKEY claps her hands, turns on her heels, then exits.

CHEEKEY (CONT'D)

Now, who in the hell nicked my eyeshadow, you know I need my garage doors to be perfect. And quit mopping, my shit. I don't...

CHEEKEY slams to DR door.

ALEXUS

We've known each other for 8 years. I started out here, in HELL, 2 years before, she did. We've built a wonderful bond of friendship, the two of us, drag in sisters. Mutual respect for each others talents, opinions, make-up. We work well together, even with our occasional bouts of throwing shade.

The Who-ho passes in front of Alexus whilst she speaks.

ALEXUS (CONT'D)

I stood for her when she and Mel, married 6 years ago, The wedding was beautiful, in J'berg, Mel's hometown. And he pulled out all the stops, no expense spared. Of course, I cried and cried. I love them both, to death.

A drag queen passes in front of Alexus. Her eyes follow DQ.

ALEXUS (CONT'D)

Didn't I say that I'm talkin' here! And keep down!

Sound: Live band volume decreases.

ALEXUS (CONT'D)

Blatant rudeness! But, Cheekey thinks she's the more talented of the two of us. Truth be told, a real C-U-N-T, she is, Charisma, Uniqueness, Nerve and Talent. What every sickening, fishydrag queen needs. However, I have all that plus the brains for management and directing, hands down. But we both want the same things, and have the same dreams: 1. to be fabulously famous, I mean universally famous. So famous that people see you on the street looking hideous, in disguise and they still recognise you.

ALEXUS AND CHEEKEY WALKING THEIR DOGS IN THE PARK, AFTERNOON.

ALEXUS VO

and 1A. rich to go with number 1, otherwise what's the point of being number one. And number 2, those totally insane, don't have a life, devoted fans to add drama.

(MORE)

ALEXUS VO (CONT'D)
I ask you, what's life without a bit of drama?

CUT TO:

ALEXUS & CHEEKEY IN PORNO STORE SHOPPING, PAPARAZZI FANS TAKING PICTURES.

ALEXUS VO (CONT'D)

And number 3. the respect, recognition and adoration from the entire gay community for our particular brand of entertainment. All of which we truly deserve.

CUT TO:

DRAG QUEEN AWARD CEREMONY WITH EVERYONE DRESSED IN DRAG. ALEXUS & CHEEKEY WINNING, JOINT AWARD FOR "BEST DRAG PERFORMANCE OF THE MILLENNIUM".

## ALEXUS VO

And 4. Our ultimate fantasy, to tour our act in America. Sorry no flashback, for that one. We had to cut back, austerity and all that, you know. So after doing solo gigs for 5 years, we decided to perform duets. And the crowd loved us. So a few months later, we thought we should form a group. You know a proper girl group, fierce, like the ones from the 60s: The Supremes, The Crystals, The Chiffons, The Shirelles. Singing doo-wop, with matching everything: costumes, lace front wigs and make-up, for course.

FLASHBACK: ALEXUS & CHEEKEY'S FIRST PERFORMANCE.

## ALEXUS

We still do our solos: Cheekey does, Donna Summers and Grace Jones. I do Madonna; complete with dancers, voguing, of course. Strictly a class act. Realness drag. Besides we are so damn beautiful, people just can't tell! The audience is in a state of utter amazement. Bet you're second guessing, right now. But, you should see the looks on their faces, while they watch us, break the dawn.

(MORE)

## ALEXUS (CONT'D)

They can't believe we can hit those high notes, especially first timers. Maybe you guys could to, if you do what we do to our (Alexus points to her crotch). They run backstage to pose for selfies and autographs. Wish I had a pound for every one I've signed. Anyway. So we talked it over with Bruce, the club owner/agent. And he thought it was a brilliant idea

FLASHBACK: TO BACKSTAGE, ALEXUS AND CHEEKEY AFTER PERFORMANCE WITH A COUPLE OF FANS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE SHOW, TO BRUCE. FANS EXIT UPSET. ALEXUS AND CHEEKEY URGING WITH BRUCE.

## BRUCE

You girls will be in such demand. You'll have to go on tour, maybe even America, with your CUNT and Motown sound. God, I'm so tired of Saturday night disco fever. It's a fantastic blend. Something no one's ever seen before, anywhere. After you get going with the show and everything's ironed out, we'll do a video, I'll send it out to agents. Glamazons is going to be a hit, I tell you, massive! They'll be breaking down the doors, to get in! It'll be the only real girl group since all them black ladies in America, with the nice outfits! Let's start open auditions on Mondays. I'll add an announcement to the website. And spread the word, here in the club.

## **ALEXUS**

So we started auditioning for another girl.

FLASHBACK TO VARIOUS OPEN AUDITIONS. ALEXUS, CHEEKEY AND BRUCE, LOOKING AT AND LISTENING TO, SOMETHING LIKE X-FACTOR, HORRIBLE TRY-OUTS.

ALEXUS (CONT'D)

We thought it would be easy, this is London, for God's sakes. The drag queen capital of the world. For 6 months, we held auditions. No one had the look, the voice, the talent. A few bogers, here and there, but no match, to me and Cheekey, not even close.

(MORE)

ALEXUS (CONT'D)

Then finally a tall and tan and young and lovely, Brazilian bitch from Rio came along, Sasha. A sex siren, positively fishy. I'm talking blue fin tuna, nothing less.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT, HEAD-TO-TOE OF SASHA, STOOD TALKING TO ANOTHER DRAG QUEEN. THEN TO CHEEKEY. SHE PEEKS HER HEAD FROM THE DR DOOR.

CHEEKEY

Ali, you're still sittin' there chatting. Stop pissing around. Come on, we got a show to do!

CHEEKEY GOES BACK INTO THE DR AND SHUTS THE DOOR.

Song: Live band fades out.

ALEXUS (O.S.)

I know! Anyway, she's head-to-toe and everything in between. So she auditioned for us, performing as Amy Winehouse "Back to Black", and she nailed it, spot on. She does a wicked Tina Turner. I might add.

Song snippet: Back to Black

FLASHBACK TO VARIOUS OPEN AUDITIONS. ALEXUS, CHEEKEY AND BRUCE, AT SASHA'S AUDITION.

SASHA

I can't help but be good at it. It runs in the family. My uncle was a drag queen. Taught me every thing I know. God rest his gay soul. Look! I go solo. But I'll try this sister act thing if I absolutely have to.

## **ALEXUS**

Look! We are all divas here. But for Glamazons, we need a girl that really wants be part of our group. Solos come second. We need three part harmony for the group. For example, if Cheekey, sings the lead, then you and I would take back-up vocals, and vice versa.

CHEEKEY

Do you read English! Did you not bother to read the advert on our website. We need someone with a voice range of a high G, two octaves above mid-C to a low C, one octave below mid-C. We even posted the music for the audition song, online. If you think you can rest on pretty to get this job? Think again, bitch. So, how's your harmony?

SASHA

Give me a go, then. Why don't you? Cheekey Bitch.

**CHEEKEY** 

I will!

Cheekey motions to Dani to get ready. Alexus and Cheekey take there places at the microphones stands. Cheekey centre, Alexus left and Sasha right.

CHEEKEY (CONT'D)

Shall we have a go! "Where Did Our Love Go?" Alexus sings the lead.

Song begins. ALEXUS, CHEEKEY AND SASHA start singing. Later ALEXUS voice over dialogue starts.

ALEXUS (V.O.)

Sasha is not a team player. She can sing the background vocals and harmony, just fine. What she really wants is, the spotlight all to herself. But if she doesn't join the group, she's out. And she desperately wants in. She's been living in London for about year now, not performing, unhappy and depressed. She really needs this gig, the chance to be famous. Even if she has to share it, part of the time.

Song ends.

BRUCE

Thank you Sasha. Would you wait in my office, please.

Bruce motions for Dani to direct Sasha to his office. Dani and Sasha exit.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

So, what do you think?

## ALEXUS

Sheer realness. And her solo was marvelous.

## CHEEKEY

That bitch wants the lead, all the time. Her harmony, is way off. She needs practice, before she can stand on this stage, backing me or you. We can start rehearsing her tomorrow, she should be ready by Friday. We'll rehearse everyday, until then. She should have been practising on her own. Who the hell does she think she is, I go solo, my arse!

## ALEXUS

Her harmony is a tad weak. And I don't care for the OTT diva bitch attitude.

## **CHEEKEY**

Me neither. She'll try to push us out of the spotlight, or off the stage! She can do her diva shit, posing and styling, when she does Amy, but not with us.

## **ALEXUS**

Cheekey is right. But, listen. I saw her perform at BAM, awhile back. She was filling in for Kinky. You know, she does Barbra Streisand. That was a while back, when Kinky went under the knife.

## CHEEKEY

How's Kinky, by the way?

## ALEXUS

Marvelous! Gorgeous! She never looked better.

## CHEEKEY

She should've it done years ago.

# ALEXUS

Solos, that's all she's done in London. Sasha's new to the cabaret scene. I got the T on her.

# CHEEKEY AND BRUCE

And what?

## **ALEXUS**

Cracking! Sickening! We need someone like her, her realness is TDF. Look, how about, we try her out for a couple of weeks and see. We get to use to her, she gets to be with us.

#### BRUCE

I'll tell her about rehearsals and how picky you are with the vocals. She's an artist, she'll understand. Besides, you know - I'll charm her.

## CHEEKEY

You're already gonna have your hands full with Miss Ter-rie, when she comes. You don't need any more action, in your bedroom or in your office for that matter, an old Sugar Daddy like you. (whispering) Viagra addict. (normal voice) She better - straighten up and fly right. If she wants this job.

#### BRUCE

And I'll remind her about the team player - sister act thing. And make her an offer she won't refuse.

# ALEXUS

Oh, she doesn't need the money. Rich Brazilian family, found gold on her mum's family property, way deep in the rain forest somewhere. Mum found out the dad is gay, after 15 years of marriage, divorces him, kicks him out on his arse, no settlement, no nothing.

CHEEKEY AND BRUCE

What a bitch!

## CHEEKEY

Bruce, please stop talking whilst I am!

CHEEKEY (CONT'D)

I see where the attitude is coming from.

## **ALEXUS**

He moves out, goes to live in San Francisco. Sasha goes to visit him when he's eight, then went to New