

ANOUSHA ZARKESH CASTING

LEON

UNEMPLOYED

White-trash, waste of space, 'Dumb and Dumber' – are some of the nicknames the locals have for Leon. His main pastimes are loud music, bong smoking, drones, conspiracy theories, and shooting stuff with his crossbow – and he's more cunning, streetwise, and lacking in empathy than people realise. Involved in Gareth's black market tranquilizer racket, Leon started off riding Gareth's coattails but he's becoming more daring along the way, selling on the side to the likes of Trevor and Maureen, which makes him a growing liability to the whole operation. The way to Leon's heart is through his stomach and he harbours an affection for Audrey, the maker of his favourite pies. After strong-arming Andy for advice, he's finally able to express his love and ask her out.

SCENE 1

20 INT. PUB – UPSTAIRS HALLWAY – DAY

(ANDY, CASSIE, LEON)

In the upstairs hallway, his door is open. Andy is thrown to find LEON sitting on his bed with a glowering expression.

ANDY

Hey.

Leon says nothing. Just stares brutally at Andy, who still holds the beer Val gave him in his hand. A long, heavy silence. Until finally, Leon leans forward.

LEON

Enjoying our little town, are ya?

ANDY

Not really. And I don't really have time for whatever this is.

LEON

How do you like the people?

ANDY

They're OK.

LEON

Any people in particular you like?

ANDY

I'll have a think about it and let you know. Thanks for stopping by.

Andy gestures for Leon to leave.

LEON

Any of the female people in particular? For instance, off the top o' my head, Audrey?

ANDY

The pie lady?

LEON

Un-fuckin-believable. You've been in town, what, five seconds? And you're waving your stars and striped dick around and fucking the one woman who should be mine!

ANDY

No I'm not!

LEON

I saw you leavin' her place last night.

ANDY

Was that you watching me via that drone?

LEON

Via?

ANDY

I swear there was nothing going on. I went in with Cassie to talk to her, and there was a little misunderstanding about her pies.

LEON

What kind of misunderstanding?

ANDY

It doesn't matter. That was all. Ask Cassie. Nothing else happened.

Something about Andy's insistence has the ring of truth about it. His face suddenly relaxes.

LEON

Shit, sorry mate. I shouldn'a made dumb assumptions. 'Course Audrey wouldn't be interested in you. Look at ya! You look like the kinda dickhead who works in a bank. What was I thinking?

ANDY

Glad I could clear that up for you.

Leon doesn't move. He's glaring at Andy enigmatically.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Anyway, I'm really in the middle of something, so...

LEON

How do I get Audrey to like me?

ANDY

Um... You know. Just be yourself?

LEON

And what if she doesn't like this 'myself' person. This is a fuckin' small town, I can't just make a move, what if I make an arse of myself? I have to live here!

ANDY

Well. Leon.

(thinking fast)

Just...make a joke of it. Ask her out in a jokey way, so if she says no, you can mock her for thinking you were serious. Then she looks like the ass. And not you.

Leon looks like he might kill Andy. Until a smile breaks out.

LEON

Mate.

He gives Andy a big bear hug, spilling the beer a little.

LEON (CONT'D)

It's fucken genius! I'll make a joke of it. And if she says no, I'll say, 'What are you, stupid? I was kidding you dumb fucken bitch!'

ANDY

Yeah, I mean, maybe not exactly--

LEON

Brilliant. Thanks mate.

(re the beer)

You going to drink that?

ANDY

Be my guest.

Leon takes the beer and starts necking it as he walks out buoyantly. The second he's gone, Cassie appears.

SCENE 2

14 EXT. LEON'S HOUSE – BACKYARD – CONTINUOUS

(ANDY, CEDRIC, MAUREEN, TREVOY, JIMMY, LEON, AUDREY, VAL)

At the party, Andy's eyes once again find Leon, pouring some flammable concoction into a hipflask. Andy approaches him.

LEON

Good bloke, your Dad. Had his head screwed on about the aliens. Not like the rest of these dickheads.

Andy piques on Leon's hostile tone and takes another swig.

ANDY

How so?

LEON

UFO Tour. Noel's idea, but Theo made it happen.

ANDY

Did you ever take the tour?

LEON

Shit yeah. Four times.

ANDY

What was it like?

LEON

Pretty crap. Tourist version. Thing about Theo, he was into it and everything, but there's a lot more to the aliens than he knew about. You go off the coast here, 150k's - then go straight down - about a mile - BAM - alien base.

ANDY

Underwater?

LEON

NSA knows about it. Military. That's why they have all these bases up here. Why else?

ANDY

(another swig) I didn't know there were bases –

Leon snatches back his flask ...

LEON

Then there's the shuttle footage in '96. Google it. Warning shots fired into space. UFOs tearing up the cosmos to get outta there. Think about that. About what that means.

ANDY

Aliens too?

LEON

Nah, mate. That was us. Humans. There's a fuckin' war going on up there and we're all kept in the dark. It's fucked. But everyone in this town, they live their little lives, heads in the sand and - (his eyes land on ...) ... Fuck me. She came.

Andy follows his gaze to ... Audrey...

SCENE 3

26 INT. LEON'S HOUSE – LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN – DAY

(CASSIE, LEON)

Leon returns with cups of tea. He's almost unnervingly calm, watching her carefully as he hands her a cup...

CASSIE

So, you and Gareth. Any secrets you want to share?

Leon sits, seeing her phone continuing to record their interview...

LEON

Why would we have secrets?

Cassie immediately senses the shift ...

CASSIE

No reason, just –

LEON

Tell me about you.

CASSIE

Me? Like ...

LEON

Like what you're doing here.

CASSIE

I'm just here to do the podcast.

LEON

Bullshit.

CASSIE

No, seriously. Heard about the missing guy - Theo - and thought here's an opportunity to –

LEON

Not Bidgee. Here!

CASSIE

Here. Right. As in ... uh, Andy ... I thought he might've come over here but ... did he?

LEON

Nope. No Andy.

As convincing as a serial killer.

CASSIE

(fumbling now) Will you be going to Indonesia too? With Gareth, when he –

LEON

Told you, did he?

CASSIE
... Is that OK?

LEON
That I was going?

Cassie senses there's a right answer and a wrong answer –

CASSIE
Uh - He didn't mention it.

LEON
He didn't?

CASSIE
No, I don't think so.

LEON
He didn't say I was going? Or he didn't mention it?

CASSIE
No, he just - he said he was going. Or he was thinking about going –

LEON
Without me?

CASSIE
Well he didn't - He may have said something about you and him and –

LEON
Me and him what?

CASSIE
No. Just ...

LEON
You wanna know, don't you?

CASSIE
(backtracking fast) No. Not really.

LEON
Yeah, you do. You wanna know everything. You reporters are all the same.

She feels uneasy as he studies her.

LEON (CONT'D)
Come on. I'll show you.

CASSIE
Uh - where are we going?

LEON
Out the back.

CASSIE
Out the back? Why?

LEON
Coz there's a shed out the back.

CASSIE
What's in the shed?

LEON
You want to know about me and Gareth, and Indo? Then to the shed we go.

CASSIE
You could just tell me.

He picks up her phone, shuts off the recording.

LEON
I could. But I've chosen to show you, Cassandra. Lead the way ...