

In the Star Trailer

Sue sits on a director's chair as two women do her hair and make-up.

She never wears make-up - a young girl doesn't need all that gunk on her face – so she isn't used to the feel of the marabou puff which they use to dust powder all over her face.

They apply pink lipstick and a touch of mascara to finish.

She smacks her lips together and pouts at her reflection in a hand held enamel mirror.

The first step in her transformation into Lolita is complete.

The Fake Beach Scene

In the novel, Lolita, Humbert first comes across Dolores Haze in a replication of the beach scene where he fell in love with his first love Annabel Leigh.

It is Sue's job to replicate this scene of a fourteen year old girl in a suburban American garden on a summer's day as a fifteen year old actress posing nervously in a bikini in the garden of a mock Tudor house hired by the film company on a crisp British day, surrounded by all the actors and crew - all of whom are older than herself.

She can feel the goosebumps on her skin. Apart from the green two-piece, she is wearing a straw hat and a pair of cat's eye sunglasses. On her towel are placed two books, a ring binder and a radio.

Kubrick checks that her position is just so.

Slowly raise your eyes to the camera as James approaches. He is Humbert. An older man, just like your favourite film star. You smile at him lightly. There is everything in this glance.

Sue wonders how one can look happy in the middle of a lion's den.

But she is not a real girl or a character in a book.

She is an actress.

The Scene in the Hotel

In this scene, Sue wears a full skirted lavender dress with a matching belt and a pair of black kitten heels.

They are filming this scene in an anonymous trailer which is a good approximation of the anonymous motel Humbert and Dolores checked into in the book.

Sue lies on the bed.

Cross your ankles and then lift your leg up and kick off one of those spiked heels.

She does what she is told.

"How am I supposed to feel at this point?" she asks the director.

He is silent for a moment. He hadn't expected this question.

"Everything is an adventure."

They are always so careful to tell me who Lolita is.

She is a teenage girl who is with her stepfather who she kind of fancies as he looks like a movie star. She is a starlet.

Sue wishes that she were under her bed covers now, finishing her hard-cover edition of the book.

She is only halfway through it – but she is beginning to wonder.

I Hate You

In this scene, Sue is dressed in a ballgown. It is made of sheer blue diaphanous fabric with a glittery sparkle through it. She also has a spiky fake diamanté tiara.

No longer *a little girl* – Dolores no longer has any time for Humbert Humbert.

Sue no longer has any time for the director and the author and playing this part.

She is angry.

She stamps her high-heel shod foot on the ground.

I hate you.

Who does she hate? The fictional Humbert? James, the assured older actor? The author of Lolita's story, Nabokov? The audience to come? Kubrick behind the camera? All the crew? The men in backrooms who read this and make jokes about this shocking book, this shocking secret?

What does it mean to be shocked?

She sits on the sofa. She feels tears pricking at her eyes.

Lolita, a ghost who has taken my hand and lead me into a world there is no coming back from.

A world you were forced to enter yourself.

She can't hate Lolita, but she does hate what she has become.

Alone with Lolita

That night Sue turns off the bedside lamp next to her hotel bed and tries to fall asleep.

She just can't do it.

It feels like she is never alone.

Even when she closes her eyes.

She keeps them tightly shut.

She opens them.

On the end of her bed, there is Lolita.

Chestnut hair and a stained pink slip.

Andrea Quinlan's chapbook *We Speak Girl* was published by Dancing Girl Press in 2012 and another chapbook - *The Mysteries of Laura* - is forthcoming from Birds of Lace in 2013. She has also had work published in brief, *Gaga Stigmata*, *Delirious Hem*, *Girls Get Busy*, *NNATAN*, *Strange Girl Press* and *HAG Collective*. Her website is <http://andreaquinlan.com/>