

= Sarah Barnes =

Sarah Barnes is a fictional character from the British Channel 4 soap opera Hollyoaks , played by Loui Batley . She debuted on @-@ screen during the episode airing on 10 October 2005 . Sarah was created by executive producer David Hanson as part of the Barnes family . In 2009 , Batley quit the serial in order to pursue other projects . Although the character is no longer part of current story lines , she has been central to many key story lines , one of the earliest the high profile gay storyline involving supercouple John Paul McQueen and Craig Dean .

The theme of sexuality was further explored through Sarah , seeing her have relations with Zoe Carpenter and a serious relationship with Lydia Hart , which Batley initially found strange to portray because of Sarah 's many relationships with male characters . Other story lines include her embarkment on a modelling career , competing in swimming competitions and her many relationships . According to Batley , Sarah relies on people too much for support and was " man @-@ crazy " in her early years . Sarah 's final storyline is her death in a skydiving accident , which was a first for a British soap opera . The storyline aired in the second series of Hollyoaks Later and was devised by producer Bryan Kirkwood . Sarah 's death won " Spectacular Scene Of The Year " at the British Soap Awards in 2010 and the scenes have been praised by certain critics .

= = Casting = =

Auditions were held for the part of Sarah , the eldest daughter of the Barnes family and actress Loui Batley secured the role . On 1 July 2009 , Digital Spy reported that Loui Batley had quit the soap and would leave towards the end of the year . Loui 's decision matched co @-@ worker Zoë Lister (Zoë Carpenter) . The Hollyoaks website officially announced on 23 July 2009 that both Batley and Lister would leave towards the end of that year . Their final storyline was described as a " A tragic curtain call for one of them " , stating that either Sarah or Zoë would die . Batley wanted to quit the serial in December 2008 when her contract ran out . Kirkwood asked her to stay another six months with the promise of a good exit storyline . The plot also involved Zoe and Lydia Hart (Lydia Kelly) . She made it clear to Kirkwood and new executive producer Lucy Allan that she would leave afterward . Allan then came up with the idea of writing Batley out of the serial in its sister show Hollyoaks Later . Upon hearing Kirkwood 's ideas for her exit storyline , Batley said : " I 've been there for quite a while and it was a great ending for the character - I couldn 't have asked for a better way to go ... " Hollyoaks Later producer Bryan Kirkwood said : " Loui 's been brilliant in Hollyoaks and she 's massively underrated . She 's been at the centre of some of the biggest storylines on the main show . She never turned in a performance less than top @-@ notch and I wish she had a little more recognition for that . She 's a very strong actress and it 's been fantastic to work with her - and great to be involved in her exit . "

= = Development = =

= = = Craig 's affair = = =

In 2007 , Sarah discovered fiancé Craig Dean 's (Guy Burnet) affair with best friend John Paul McQueen (James Sutton) , in the storyline dubbed " McDean " . The storyline reached its climax as the truth is revealed " dramatically " at her engagement party . Sarah walked in on the pair kissing , A Hollyoaks spokesperson stated in an interview with Digital Spy , " John Paul 's sick of all the lies and decides enough is enough . He sends a text from Craig 's phone asking Sarah to come upstairs to see him . Safe in the knowledge that Sarah is on her way , JP sets about seducing Craig . When she walks in , she can 't believe what she 's looking at ... " Sarah tried to recover from this and Batley said : " I don 't think she got over Rhys , either . Craig more so , though . He absolutely destroyed her happiness and belief in men . Her relationship with Craig was going to be her life and she put so much effort into it , emotionally and physically , and it completely destroyed her . " Batley

said Sarah could not handle the fact he cheated on her with another man . She opined this was the reason her storyline with Zoe and Lydia worked well . However John Paul 's betrayal also had impact on Sarah 's life because he was one of her best friends . Batley said : " John Paul was her confidante and she thought they were best friends - it 's hard to say which part made more of an impact on her . It was all just one horrible experience . It was the betrayal from both of them . "

= = = Sexuality = = =

Sexuality continued to be a focal point in Sarah 's storyline . The new plot featured Sarah questioning her sexuality after a one @-@ night stand with Zoë . Speaking to Digital Spy , Batley said Sarah and Zoe always been close . Zoe is the best friend she has ever had because in her life people have always let her down , whereas Zoe has been " her rock " ; despite their fall outs . Batley felt this to be the reason why they share a mutual friendly love for one another . In comparison , Sarah 's feeling intensified and Batley commented : " For Sarah it 's something more - she completely relies on her and that turns into love for her as well . " Whilst filming the raunchy scenes , there was a nervous atmosphere on set .

Sarah then embarked on her first full relationship with a woman , with Lydia . The pair have a series of " misunderstandings " until Sarah admits her feelings for Lydia and comes out . Batley spoke of the storyline during an interview with The Sun branding her relationship with Lydia as serious compared to her fling with Zoe . The rocky relationship led to Lydia being jealous of Sarah and Zoë 's friendship , and eventually Sarah 's death within the show .

When asked if she thought Sarah had come to terms with the fact she is a lesbian , Batley said : " I don 't know because from the beginning , Sarah was always boy crazy , so for her , I don 't think it 's about being one way or the other ? I think she 's just very clingy . Batley also gave her views on how Sarah should have developed , opining it would have been good for her to spend more time on her own , be herself and learn who she really is . She felt that Sarah had to often cling on to people and believing that ultimately it would make her happy . Sarah tries this notion with Zoe , describing this Batley added : " I think that 's what happened with Zoe as well because they were such good friends . With Lydia , she brought something to her and she got on with her and was sparky , which is something that Sarah liked . I don 't know if she 'd suddenly turned , though . Maybe she was more bisexual than anything . "

= = = Departure = = =

Alongside Batley 's departure , it was that revealed Lister , who plays Zoe , would also leave the show . The exit storyline was described as a " tragic skydiving death " caused by a jealous Lydia . Prior to transmission of the skydiving , Lister had explained the storyline during an interview with Sky TV . She said Lydia initially severed a parachute to end her own life , later deciding to cut Zoe 's parachute so she could have Sarah to herself . She also explained that viewers were not permitted to know who would have parachute . The parachute mix up was described as the storyline 's " dramatic twist " . Speaking on how Zoe 's friendship with Sarah causes Lydia to commit her actions , Lister stated :

It was revealed that cast members filmed on a number of location settings . One of these included an army barracks . They also filmed scenes at Tatenhill Airfield . The airfield 's staff had been asked to remain secretive regarding details of the storyline . Lister explained that the episodes were fun to film and they had to do " funny " stunts . Lister was the only cast member out of her , Batley and Kelly who performed the aired skydiving for real . A Hollyoaks producer released two pictures of funeral wreaths , one reading ' Zoe ' and the other ' Sarah ' , in order to confuse viewers further as to whom the victim would be . When the episode aired it played out with Sarah dying in the jump . When executive producer Bryan Kirkwood described the exit to Batley , she thought it was a " perfect and amazing " end for Sarah . Further adding that " It really draws a line under the four years " of Sarah 's storylines .

= = Storylines = =

During the character 's original appearance on Hollyoaks , there was no additional information to Sarah 's life beforehand . Mike (Tony Hirst) and Kathy Barnes (Sarah Jane Buckley) struggled to cope with Kathy 's pregnancy , as the two were still teenagers at the time , and they discussed putting her up for adoption , although Mike then became attached to Sarah after her birth and the couple decided to keep her when Mike realised that he wanted to be a father after all .

Sarah befriends Rhys Ashworth (Andrew Moss) and Gilly Roach (Anthony Quinlan) , Rhys and Sarah grow closer , but he is put off by her age . Despite her mother 's high hopes for her to become an Olympic swimmer , Sarah begins dating Rhys . Kathy is horrified and vows to stop Rhys seeing Sarah . Kathy then seduces an intoxicated Rhys and she has a one @-@ night stand with him . When Sarah finds out , she dumps him and starts to despise her mother . Few months after , Sarah regrets dumping Rhys and forgives him . However , he takes nude photographs of her and shows them to his friends . Disgusted , she ends her relationship with Rhys . Sarah grows close to Gilly but decides not to begin a relationship . Sarah and Hannah strike friendships with friends Craig and John Paul . She and Craig start to date and set Hannah up with John Paul . Craig is caught kissing John Paul by Hannah , which leads to John Paul 's coming out . Craig convinces Sarah he is heterosexual and John Paul initiated the kiss . Regardless , Sarah sees John Paul as a friend and encourages him in his first relationship with Spike (Tom Vaughan) . Craig is angry to learn the pair had sex , he tries to force himself on Sarah and calls her a whore . They later make up . Sarah does a photoshoot for a fictional magazine named Ripple and she delves further into the world of modelling , in spite of Craig 's feelings . Sarah turns to John Paul for advice over her relationship . Unbeknownst to her , John Paul and Craig are having an affair . They go on holiday to repair their problems . Sarah becomes suspicious of Craig , to avoid her finding out the truth Craig proposes marriage to her , which she accepts . They then plan to move to Dublin and Craig 's mother Frankie Osborne (Helen Pearson) decides to host an engagement party at The Dog in the Pond . John Paul is heartbroken . John Paul uses Craig 's mobile phone to text Sarah and tell her to come to Craig 's room , where he and Craig are kissing . Sarah walks into the room and is shocked to find Craig cheating . She then tells everyone at the party about Craig and John Paul 's affair . Sarah later asks Craig to take her back , assuming he is just confused . Craig then admits his love for John Paul and he leaves with him for Dublin .

Sarah begins to grow close to Rhys again and they reunite . However , Rhys is using her to make Beth Clement (Sinéad Moynihan) jealous . Beth and Sarah are friends and she convinces Sarah to split with Rhys . Sarah befriends Zoë and asks her to move in . Kathy accuses Zoë and Mike of having an affair and Mike breaks up with Kathy , who leaves him . Mike confesses his feelings for Zoë and they begin a secret relationship . Sarah discovers the truth and moves in with friend , Nancy Hayton (Jessica Fox) . Sarah finds an odd friend in Elliot Bevan (Garnon Davies) , who develops feelings for her . Elliot 's physics lecturer Roger Kiddle (Quentin Tibble) meets Sarah and after embarking on a fling , Elliot uncovers the truth . He becomes angry but eventually forgives Sarah . Sarah splits up with Roger when Sarah finds out he has a wife and made a pass at Zoë . Sarah starts to fall in love with Elliot and confesses to him . Elliot reciprocates and the pair become a couple . Soon after , Elliot decides they are too different and dumps her . Sarah is jealous when best friend Hannah dates him .

Sarah makes up with Zoë and moves back into the Barnes home . They , and Nancy , then set off on a holiday to Zoë 's old school so that she could make a speech on careers to current students . While at the school , it becomes apparent that Zoë had been involved in an affair with her teacher while she was fifteen . A drunken Sarah then accuses her of using her dad to fulfil her fantasy of being in a relationship with an older man . The pair end up in a fight . Sarah and Zoë make up as they are left alone in the hotel room . The pair drunkenly share a kiss before sleeping together . After this , Sarah feels more guilty and cannot look at Zoë , who tells her it was a drunken mistake and urges her to put it behind her . Arriving back in Hollyoaks , Sarah makes Zoë leave for a trip to give them space . Zoë returns and Sarah threatens to tell Mike , however Kris Fisher (Gerard McCarthy) overhears and tells Nancy and Mike , who throws both Sarah and Zoë out . A guilty

Sarah begins to have random sex with teenagers . First Archie Carpenter (Stephen Beard) , who turns out to be Zoë 's brother when she catches them in a passionate state . Sarah is then shocked when it turns out Archie is rating her against other girls . She later has sex with Warren Fox (Jamie Lomas) .

Sarah moves back home when she reconciles with Mike . Whilst working at a dance class Persephone Hart (Elizabeth Hadley) claims that Sarah has assaulted her . The girl 's older sister , Lydia manages to get her fired . Sarah and Lydia then become good friends . Lydia later reveals herself to be a lesbian . The pair then share a kiss which leaves Sarah confused . She becomes attracted to Lydia , she thinks is bisexual and that her experience with Zoë had started her sexuality crisis . Sarah eventually admits to having feelings for Lydia , and the pair begin a relationship . Lydia later accuses Sarah of cheating with Zoë . Mike begins to accept Sarah 's sexuality . Sarah discovers she was nearly given up for adoption by Mike and Kathy as a baby , after Zoë steals a script from Mike and uses it in her film for college . Sarah is angry at Zoë for using her but they later make up . Sarah breaks up with Lydia when she catches her kissing ex @-@ girlfriend Charlotte Lau (Amy Yamazaki) . Lydia grows increasingly jealous of Sarah and Zoë 's friendship . Lydia trouble between Sarah and Charlotte , so Sarah and Zoe go on an adventure trip . Lydia follows them as they get drunk and Sarah tells Zoe she loves her . Lydia over hears and is further fuels her jealousy . As they prepare for a skydive Lydia cuts Zoe 's parachute , however the become mixed up . Sarah falls to her death with her faulty parachute . Lydia frames Zoe but is eventually convicted .

= = Reception = =

Kris Green of Digital Spy described the skydive as one of the best stunts he had seen in a long time , adding that the reaction to Sarah 's death made him shed a tear and that the episode on a whole was " amazing " . The parachute stunt won ' Spectacular Scene Of The Year ' at the 2010 British Soap Awards . At the 2010 Inside Soap Awards the storyline gained nominations for Batley in the categories of " Best Exit " and " Best Stunt " .

Virgin Media profiled some of Hollyoaks ' " hottest females " in their opinion , of Sarah they stated : " Sarah Barnes ' sex appeal stretched so far she even had to experiment with the ladies . Turns out that wasn 't the brightest idea she 'd ever had - her jealous girlfriend Lydia finally polished her off good and proper . " Olly Riachards men 's lifestyle magazine FHM commented on Sarah stating : " the one who fell out of a plane and splatted all across the ground , leading to a really drawn out and really boring plotline " Holy Soap opined that Batley " livened up screens as lesbian temptress Sarah Barnes . " and that she had many " major storylines " . Digital Spy brand Sarah as , just a " wannabe model " . The Daily Mail have favoured Sarah 's storyline with Zoe . They opined that Sarah has had a " string of bad relationships with men " , that Zoe and Sarah 's kiss was an " interesting turn " and call it a scandal , that " heats and spices up " Hollyoaks . Nadia Sam @-@ Daliri of The Sun disagreed with Batley 's comments on the lesbian scenes being weird and said " They 've been far from weird to watch ... "

The Bristol Evening Post branded Sarah 's coming out as an " amazing storyline " , said Sarah is a " leggy brunette " and opined her attraction to Lydia developed into " full @-@ blown obsession " . Asian News International included Sarah and Zoe second on their top ten " girl @-@ on @-@ girl kisses on TV " list . The Liverpool Daily Post ran a quiz focused on style , one of their result trends read " You like to put your own stamp on trends and tend to mix designer and high street clothes to create the look you want . You are an " urban aspirant " like Sarah Barnes , from Hollyoaks . " When Sarah dated males to convince herself she is straight , Lesbian culture website AfterEllen.com stated that " Sarah will surely find out de @-@ gaying is just not possible " . They also branded her storyline " scandalous " and said she " has had her fair share of failed relationships - with men , that is " .