

= Zoe Carpenter =

Zoe Carpenter is a fictional character from the British Channel 4 soap opera Hollyoaks , played by Zoë Lister . The character first appeared on @-@ screen on 1 September 2006 , as one of three new students at Hollyoaks Community College . It was announced in 2009 that Lister had quit her role in order to pursue other projects ; she subsequently left the series in January 2010 . During Zoe 's time in Hollyoaks she has been portrayed as a bubbly tomboy who often makes the wrong choices in life and has had a number of failed relationships .

Zoe has been involved in storylines including being stalked , entering a relationship with an older man , having sexual relations with her female best friend , being wrongfully imprisoned for the murder of Sarah Barnes and the being victim of a stabbing . Lister 's portrayal saw her nominated for the " Sexiest Female " award at the 2008 British Soap Awards , and also attracted critical praise for her exit storyline .

= = Development = =

= = = Casting = = =

Actress and dancer Zoë Lister was cast in the role of Zoe . On 8 June 2009 , media entertainment website Digital Spy revealed that Lister had quit the soap and would leave towards the end of the year . Speaking of her decision to quit , Lister stated : " It 's scary but also very , very exciting . I think three years in a soap is enough to do and you get to a point where you either make a decision that this is what you do or you want to try something different . " She also revealed that she had been planning to leave the series one year prior to announcement . Lister 's decision to quit matched that of co @-@ star Loui Batley (Sarah Barnes) . Hollyoaks officially announced on 23 July 2009 that both Lister and Batley would leave towards the end of the year in a storyline that would see " A tragic curtain call for one of them " , later revealing that either Sarah or Zoe would be killed off in a dramatic storyline . Lister also revealed in an interview with Heat magazine that she was " nervous " , but " very excited " about leaving the show .

Almost a year after filming her final scenes , Lister explained that she felt her exit was the right choice , saying : " It felt it was time to go so I just ran with my instincts . Looking back , I was nervous but now I know I 've done the right thing . I love theatre work . It gives me such a buzz . [Hollyoaks] was the break I 'd been praying for . I threw myself into the part and enjoyed every minute of it . I had three superb years and it was brilliant . "

= = = Characterisation = = =

Zoe is a former student at Hollyoaks Community College , where she studied Film Studies . Channel 4 publicity describe Zoe as " the bubbly student " and make note of her many bad choices in life and failed relationships . Discussing these failed relationships , Lister commented during an interview in June 2009 that she believed her character was having a break from men in order to sort out her problems : " I think she 's been in and out of so many relationships and her life is at a bit of a juncture ; she probably needs to sort her head out , sort her career , knuckle down really and not get bogged down into a relationship because everything takes a backseat when you 're in one . "

Zoe is also portrayed as having a tomboy persona . Lister was asked about this " tomboy " personality during an interview with Maxim magazine , agreeing with the label and stating her character doesn 't " glam up " as much as the other Hollyoaks characters . Maxim also noted the character was " pretty popular with the boys " . Lister has also commented that her character is not a stereotypical dizzy blonde , reiterated her character 's tomboy status and added that she is a " very street @-@ smart type of woman . "

= = = Early storylines = = =

One of Zoe 's first and main storylines was being stalked by fellow student Will Hackett (Oliver Farnworth) . Lister later commented on the storyline , deciding it was her most memorable : " The most memorable for me was the one with my weird boyfriend Will who stalked me . Like I said , it was a bit weird , but I quite liked it as a storyline . " During a fire safety promotion undertaken with co @-@ star Lena Kaur (who plays Leila Roy) , Lister referenced the storyline , commenting : " It 's much easier to test your smoke alarm once a week and plan your escape from fire than it is to escape from a psycho ! " .

In early 2008 during an interview with the Daily Mail , Lister expressed her feelings on the subject of lesbian storylines , stating : " I 'd definitely do a lesbian love scene in Hollyoaks . That would be a really good story . " It was later confirmed by Channel 4 that Lister 's character would be involved in a sexual relationship with Sarah during the new late night series Hollyoaks Later . After the screening of the scenes , Lister explained : " It was quite nerve @-@ wracking actually as I 'm good friends with Loui ? it 's quite a strange thing to smooch a really good friend so we had to get over the giggles and think ' right , just do it ! ' " Also commenting on her worries about the scenes , she said : " I thought it was hilarious ! I thought it 'd be interesting , though . I was obviously quite worried about them . Loui [Batley] and I chatted a lot when we found out that it was going to be in the late @-@ night eps and we were wondering ' oh no , what does this mean ? ! ' But in the end , they weren 't graphic or anything like that , so it was fine . " She continued : " It was completely mental filming them . Loui and I just had a massive attack of the giggles . I think the crew were more embarrassed than we were ! We were kind of ignored for the day . "

Speaking to entertainment news website Digital Spy about Sarah and Zoe 's relationship , Lister explained : " I don 't think they do have feelings for each other in that way . Last year happened and Zoe put it down to history and experience ? one of those things that teenagers get up to occasionally and she was quite happy to leave it there . They 've got through a lot and their relationship is really quite special . There 's a lot of love there but Zoe 's not got anything sexual for Sarah ? it 's purely a deep friendship . " Meanwhile , Batley said : " I think that for Sarah , Zoe 's the best friend she 's ever had ? a lot of people in her life have let her down but Zoe 's her rock . Even though they 've had their fall @-@ outs , she 's always been there for her and she loves her as a friend . I think Zoe feels the same . But for Sarah it 's something more ? she completely relies on her and that turns into love for her as well . "

= = = Imprisonment and exit = = =

After the announcement of Lister 's departure , it was that revealed Loui Batley , who played Sarah Barnes , would also leave the show in a tragic skydiving death , caused by a jealous Lydia Hart (Lydia Kelly) . Before the skydiving plot aired , Lister explained the storyline during an interview with Sky TV , stating that at the time Lydia severed a parachute to end her own life , later deciding to cut Zoe 's parachute so she could have Sarah to herself , further explaining that viewers were not permitted to know who would have parachute after they became mixed up in the storyline 's dramatic twist . Speaking on how Zoe 's relationship with Sarah causes Lydia to commit her actions , Lister stated :

Lister explained that she and her fellow cast members filmed on many locations , including army barracks . They filmed at Tatenhill Airfield , where staff had been told to remain secretive about the storyline . She also revealed that she 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 . On @-@ screen after the skydive and Sarah 's subsequent death , Lydia framed Zoe for the murder she committed , leading to her arrest .

Speaking of Sarah 's death and Zoe 's false imprisonment , Lister stated : " She 's in a very difficult place . She 's lost her best friend and there 's so much history there and she 's finished her degree ? well she didn 't even finish her degree , she failed that ? so she 's in a limbo land anyway . She 's working silly jobs and she 's not in a very good place at all in any aspect of her life . Oh , and she 's

in prison on suspicion of murder ... " When asked during another interview with Digital Spy about how the character is coping with being in prison , Lister stated : " Not very well ! It 's all completely overwhelming for her . She can 't get her head around the fact that her best friend 's dead and the fact that she 's being accused of murdering her is ridiculous . She 's worried that because it 's got this far its ludicrous , so who 's to say that she won 't be sent down ? "

When the character was ultimately found not guilty and was released , Lister stated in an interview with E4 : " I think this is a great storyline , I 've really enjoyed doing it . When Zoe 's obviously released , it 's like a whole new scenario for her because there are people who haven 't really trusted her or believed in her . People that have really let her down , and plus the fact she hasn 't got over Sarah [...] being killed yet either . She hasn 't had the chance to deal with that , so that 's really interesting , and she still wants Lydia to go down ! " The character of Zoe then set out to expose Lydia as Sarah 's killer . She befriended her , and even seduced her in order to gain a confession . During an interview about Zoe 's new scheme , Lister said :

Lister continued , " It all gets really messy from here ! Because Lydia 's really deranged , Lydia starts thinking that because she loved Sarah and Sarah loved Zoe , if she gets with Zoe , that 'll be the final piece in the puzzle and it 'll all work out . " She explained : " Lydia starts becoming obsessed with Zoe and to keep control , Zoe has to go with it . There 's a point where Lydia kisses her ! And then Mike walks in and kicks Zoe out . "

Lydia discovered Zoe 's true intentions for befriending her , and set out to take revenge . In a second interview with E4 , Lister stated : " I was really surprised when I learned about Zoe 's ' master plan ' to get Lydia to confess because I think after everything that Zoe 's been through [...] the last thing she wants to do is ever see Lydia again , let alone try and make friends with her ! But that is her only way , so I think it 's really interesting . " She continued : " The fight and the chase stuff with Lydia in the graveyard was really good , we filmed it at night . I was dressed as Madonna . We were in a cemetery , it was brilliant ! ... "

The culmination of the plot saw Lydia stab Zoe . The storyline was described as a " brutal attack " and at the time producers refused to reveal if Zoe would survive . Describing the terror Lydia causes for Zoe , a spokesperson for the serial stated : " Zoe can 't believe it when Lydia admits the parachute was meant for her . As soon as she realises Lydia wanted her dead she tries to run . That 's when Lydia pulls out a knife and stabs her . " This led to a fight between Lydia and Charlotte who arrives with Dave Colburn (Elliot James Langridge) . They both fight to grab the knife while an unconscious Zoe bleeds , ultimately leading to the arrest of Lydia when the police arrive . She is later charged with the murder of Sarah and the attempted murder of Zoe . Several weeks after the character was stabbed , she was seen feeling as if no one wanted to be in her company . After three of her longtime friends snubbed her ideas to make a fresh start elsewhere , ultimately she was she went travelling with her former boyfriend Mike Barnes (Tony Hirst) and Gilly Roach (Anthony Quinlan) .

= = Storylines = =

= = = Backstory = = =

Born in 1987 to Graham (Paul Clarkson) and Christine Carpenter (Race Davies) , Zoe is the older sister of Archie Carpenter (Stephen Beard) . During her time at secondary school , Zoe was overweight and self @-@ conscious . She sought comfort in her teacher and fell in love . The pair began an affair , which was never discovered . While at school , Zoe also had a relationship with Joe Spencer (Matt Millburn) , who had arrived in Hollyoaks as a student three years before her arrival .

= = = 2006 ? 2010 = = =

Zoe arrives as a new student at the college , studying Film Studies . She eventually grows closer to her ex @-@ boyfriend Joe . Zoe , Kris Fisher (Gerard McCarthy) , Joe and Olivia Johnson (

Rochelle Gadd) are in The Dog in the Pond bar when Sam Owen (Louis Tamone) sets it on fire . Zoe escapes but Joe and Olivia die . Zoe has a one @-@ night stand with Zak Ramsey . After rejecting the advances of Will and entering a relationship with Will , Zoe is abused and manipulated by him . He stops Zoe from leaving to study in New York City , resorting to stealing her passport and breaking her hand . He spies on her via web @-@ cam , and drugs her , making it look like a suicide attempt . When Zoe discovers that Will has been spying on her , he ties her up on the college roof and confesses his love for her . Will eventually lets Zoe go and is arrested . A traumatised Zoe leaves to stay with her parents .

Zoe starts a relationship with Darren Osborne (Ashley Taylor Dawson) . When Frankie Osborne (Helen Pearson) fosters a seven @-@ year @-@ old child called Daisy , Zoe gets on well with her and is angry when Darren has her sent away . Zoe ends their relationship , although they go on to reconcile . Darren becomes addicted to gambling and begins to steal Zoe 's money . He sleeps with Jessica Harris (Jennifer Biddall) after they win at a casino . When Zoe discovers this , she ends their relationship again , though helps him through his gambling addiction .

Sarah invites Zoe to move in with her , however her father Mike is angry to find Zoe using Sarah 's sister Amy Barnes ' (Ashley Slanina @-@ Davies) room . Kathy Barnes (Sarah Jane Buckley) begins to suspect an affair between Zoe and Mike , and throws all Zoe 's clothes out into the street . Mike then asks Kathy to move out . He and Zoe sleep together , unknowingly recorded by Ste Hay (Kieron Richardson) , who exposes them . Sarah lashes out at Mike and Zoe . She flaunts her older boyfriend Roger Kiddle (Quentin Tibble) in Mike 's face , which backfires when Roger makes a pass at Zoe and they become an official couple . Sarah is able to forgive Zoe , and comforts her when she has a pregnancy scare . Mike is very upset about the idea of Zoe being pregnant .

Zoe visits her old school with Sarah and Nancy Hayton (Jessica Fox) , recalling her relationship with her former teacher . She and Sarah get drunk and sleep together , which they both regret and agree to keep quiet . Their one @-@ night stand is later revealed , however , leaving Mike devastated . He throws them both out , before realising how much he loves Zoe and offering to take her back , only for her to refuse .

When Archie destroys Zoe 's film project , essential for her graduation , lecturer Adrian P. Kennedy (Richard Lawrence) gives her an extension . Zoe finds a script belonging to Mike which he wrote 20 years ago about his decision to give Sarah up for adoption . Zoe uses the script and films it , and Adrian screens it in the SU Bar . At the screening , Sarah discovers the planned adoption and is in turmoil . Mike goes to see Adrian to tell him of the plagiarism . Adrian says that if she sleeps with him , he will not tell the university . Zoe considers Adrian 's offer but later claims she would rather be a failure than sleep with him , leading to him failing her project . Zoe then has a brief relationship with Natty (Danny Tennant) .

Zoe goes on a parachute jump with Fernando Fernandez (Jeronimo Best) , Steph Cunningham (Carley Stenson) , Gilly and Sarah . Sarah 's ex @-@ girlfriend Lydia appears and is jealous of Sarah and Zoe 's friendship . Lydia lies to Zoe , telling her that Sarah had attempted suicide after their affair the previous year , and warns her to stay away from Sarah . That night , Sarah and Zoe get drunk and return to their tent , where Sarah makes a pass at Zoe . Sarah reveals that whilst she had not intended to kiss her , Zoe was the only person she had ever been able to rely upon . Zoe and Sarah later discover Lydia 's lies and Sarah decides to end their relationship for good during a discussion with Zoe . Lydia overhears the conversation and sabotages Zoe 's parachute before the jump in an attempt to kill her . When the parachutes are mixed up by accident , Zoe 's deploys successfully , but Sarah falls to her death . Upset , Zoe ends up sleeping with a grieving Mike for comfort . Lydia slits her wrists after planting the knife she had sabotaged the parachute with behind Zoe 's bed . Zoe is then arrested in front of Mike under suspicion of Sarah 's murder and is later charged .

Mike visits Zoe in prison , despite Lydia manipulating him , and Zoe is able to convince him that she was not to blame for Sarah 's death . During her trial , Mike tells the court he believes his daughter committed suicide , and Zoe is found not guilty and is released . She then decides to expose Lydia as Sarah 's killer . Zoe moves in with Mike and Lydia , and tells Lydia that her feelings towards her have changed . The pair share a kiss , just as Mike and Amy walk in . Mike then tells Zoe to leave .

Lydia discovers that Zoe is using her , and plots revenge . On New Year 's Eve , she gets Zoe to meet her in a church , so they can admit their ' relationship ' to Sarah . Zoe initially goes along with this , but then changes her mind , runs out and is knocked unconscious . Zoe is able to get a confession from Lydia , before running away again . She is startled to see Sarah 's grave for the first time . Lydia finds Zoe and stabs her as Charlotte Lau (Amy Yamazaki) , Dave Colburn (Elliot James Langridge) and Mike arrive . Mike then cradles Zoe as he calls an ambulance .

Zoe recovers , and after inspiration from Hannah Ashworth (Emma Rigby) , she decides to go travelling , along with Kris and Zak . Kris and Zak change their minds , however , due to their girlfriends Nancy and Michaela McQueen (Hollie @-@ Jay Bowes) . Zoe plans to leave herself , but as she packs her belongings to leave , Mike is convinced to join her . Zoe , Mike and Gilly say their goodbyes and leave the village . In August , six months after leaving Hollyoaks , Zoe gives Kris an offer to come to London and help her organise a party for a rich person .

= = Reception = =

In 2008 , Lister 's role as Zoe saw her nominated for the " Sexiest Female " award at The British Soap Awards , however she lost to co @-@ star Roxanne McKee . Lister was asked in an interview if she was disappointed to not win the award . She replied : " Not at all ! It was lovely to be nominated , and also a bit hilarious , but beyond that , I wasn 't desperate to win . I really wasn 't bothered ! I was more than happy that Roxanne [McKee] won it ? and I guessed she might do anyway . " When Zoe 's affair with Mike Barnes (Tony Hirst) began , there was some controversy over the storyline , due to the age gap between the pair . However , Hirst stated : " I think the controversy has subsided somewhat . It 's not an illicit affair , it 's known about now . It was shocking to some people at the beginning but it wasn 't by any means illegal . There were some complications but they are both grown @-@ ups ! " 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 in the category of " Best Stunt " . Kris Green of Digital Spy described the skydive as one of the best stunts he had seen in a long time , commenting that Zoe 's 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 . The Daily Mail opined that Zoe took an " interesting turn " when she slept with Sarah . Asian News International included Sarah and Zoe second on their top ten " girl @-@ on @-@ girl kisses on TV " list .

Grace Dent of The Guardian commented on the realism of Zoe 's storyline involving Adrian stating : " hapless Zoe failed her exams after refusing to shag dismal tutor Adrian . Predatory lecturers taking advantage of gullible women ? Actually , that 's a plot line I can get my head around . The problem with being an academic perv these days is that one day sooner or later , the truth will out . " Lesbian culture website AfterEllen.com opined " she doesn 't seem like the type of woman to give up without a fight " where Sarah and Mike are concerned . They also branded her storyline " scandalous " and said " It appears that in the UK , some television writers actually pay attention to what their actors want . " This was in response to Lister suggesting the storyline .