



THE OTHER POSSIBILITY

SYNOPSIS

“Enlighten others to their own possibilities,
in other words, help to change the world.”

LESTER BANGS

KAZ HAUSER, a young, feisty Berlin music journalist who aspires to ‘be the best’, discovers she’s dying from an incurable blood cancer. Fired by the philosophy of her mentor, Lester Bangs, the late famous gonzo rock writer, she chases ‘the other possibility’ and sets out to find the English father she’s never met.

There are two possibles, both musicians, same band. On vocals, GERRY DALEY, who quickly turned his back on music and made a fortune in demolition. On guitar, MCGURK, who kept the faith and played on. Their paths have since run parallel but never crossed, until Kaz blows into town.

Kaz finds one man who hasn’t grown up yet and another who is emotionally frozen. MCGURK, a loveable bear of a man, is the better candidate for fatherhood, except he’s 45 going on 25, and GERRY a firebrand in his youth has turned to stone. Kaz hates him on sight. He’s her father...

McGurk takes Kaz on a musical tour of Newcastle, furnishing her with biographical info for her supposed article on the city’s music scene. The Animals, Sting, Pet Shop Boys, Roxy Music, Maximo Park. Kaz meets other members of the band now in new modes of employment, a florist, a funeral director. But when Kaz insists she’s looking for Gerry, McGurk warns her off. Gerry’s no longer in the music business; he’s in demolition these days. They end up at a dilapidated building McGurk hopes to renovate and turn into a music venue for local bands. It was the spot where Gerry and McGurk got their first break. Kaz falls in love with it – not least because it is dying on its feet. The plumbing emits the most amazing sounds and the floors are about to crumble. Kaz regards the place as a metaphor for her own declining body and resolves to help McGurk achieve his ambition. Save the building, save herself. But Angelina, McGurk’s girlfriend, pours cold water on his plans by revealing McGurk doesn’t even own the building.

Kaz visits the building the next day – only to discover that Gerry Daley is preparing to knock it down. McGurk is incensed but offers no action, so Kaz convinces Gerry she is a German journalist doing an article on Newcastle’s ‘regeneration’. Flattered, she entices Gerry to the building and attempts to win him round, he refuses and Kaz has no option but to try to reclaim the building.

Inspired, Kaz decides to put on the mother of all gigs to convince her father that there is ‘another possibility’. A hectic day of promotion and favour pulling results in a fantastic bill that will all play a benefit in the old building. Unfortunately Gerry and his team of men arrive to spoil the party. Kaz, defeated, considers suicide and then makes one last bid to thaw her father’s heart and returns to his penthouse. She discovers a secret room full of music, unopened and unplayed. She faints, a symptom of her worsening condition and Gerry finds her slumped and bleeding on his apartment floor. ‘Music won’t kill you’ Kaz tells him and for the first time in years Gerry puts on a record and finally embraces his daughter. Later that night the gig is back on, McGurk and Gerry play together for the first time in over twenty years. As the concert starts Kaz climbs to the top of the building and contemplates the city night sky. ‘I realise now that it wasn’t all about saving me’ she confides with Lester, before closing her eyes and stepping to the roof’s edge...

“I know, lets you and me swap blood,
at least there’s music in mine”

KAZ HAUSER