

## **When Bradley Cooper Tells You to Trust Him**

He said: "All you have to do is trust me." What a loaded line. Your mind could go in a million directions with that one. But he came to a show where she was singing and then asked if they could set up an appointment to meet at her house the next night. So unreal, she thought..... Bradley Cooper.

The doorbell rings and there he stands as Stefani Germanotta opens the door. She lets him in and asks him if he's hungry as she warms up some leftovers for the two of them. "We're both Italians," she said. "It's just what we do."

As Stefani listens to what he has to say, and the reason why he's there, he also tells her he wants to sing with her. He wants them to sing Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Midnight Special."

She prints off the sheet music to one of CCR's major hits and sits down at her piano and begins to play. He joins in and they proceed to sing it together. Stefani Germanotta, or better known to her audience as Lady Gaga, was absolutely stunned at the brilliance of his voice.

Bradley Cooper isn't really a singer – he's an actor. But he trained with a voice coach for 18 months to learn how to be a credible singer. He produced, directed, co-wrote and acted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> remake of the 1937 original movie "A Star is Born."

For me, I remember the 2<sup>nd</sup> remake of the movie in 1976 with Barbara Streisand and Kris Kristofferson. The movie was magical. And inspiring. And stirring. And tragic. And really sad.

Moved by the arc of the story that followed the vibe of the bad boy singer to the disturbing underbelly of addiction, mental health and co-dependency, the movie was amazing.

I thought – no way, there is no comparison to Barbara Streisand. Literally, no one can hold a candle to Babs singing “Evergreen” - absolutely no one. On top of that, in 1976, the epic hotness of Kris Kristofferson had all of us 16 year-old girls swooning for him.

I had his albums, and I still do in fact. You just can’t beat his rendition of “Me and Bobby McGee” or “Sunday Morning Coming Down.” Both are amazing songs.

It’s a love story complete with all its gritty pieces. The rise to fame of the newbie comes at a cost for the other, which always leads to someone’s undoing.

In the latest remake of “A Star is Born,” in real life Bradley Cooper asks Stefani to be in his movie. That’s the real reason he came to her house, ate leftovers and sang CCR. But she tells him she can’t act. He says: “All you have to do is trust me.”

First Bradley has to “un-lady-gaga” her. And make her back into Stefani. Plain Jane, if you will. But when she hits that screen, it all just works. You love Lady Gaga as Plain Jane. It creates another dimension to her, to the talent she is displaying, and to the movie itself.

The success in unmasking her natural beauty in real life and on the screen is you get to see the raw version of her. Her talent doesn’t compete with her costumes and you take notice. It’s not the first thing you see. Here, on screen, you hear her voice first, and are taken for the ride of your life, uncomplicated by her usual hair and get ups. She’s beautiful in this movie and her voice is even more so.

As for Bradley Cooper, he is right up there with Kris Kristofferson. He too, makes you swoon. With a twinkle in his blue eyes, a sexy grin and scruffy beard, he stands on stage and sings to an audience like he's been doing this his whole life. The singing is so real, so raw, and so unbelievably powerful, that you are sucked in the second he opens his mouth to sing. Its power is ignitable.

As the chemistry between the two emerges in front of you, it is actually more intense than the 1976 version. At the time, I didn't calculate the compatibility between Streisand and Kristofferson. It just was. And I was swooning, after all. But now, after seeing this version, there is no comparison. There is a connection between the two of them that can't be mistaken and can't be ignored. It makes you feel like you're intruding on their love story, or being voyeuristic. It's just that real.

In this remake of the classic, everything is original. All the music is theirs to own and take credit for. In an interview with Stephen Colbert, Lady Gaga said she insisted that every song be played in front of a live audience. "It makes it more real" she said. Because it is - real, that is. She said it always sounds better when it's live and not a mix of live and recorded. You feel like you're in the audience.

With domestic and foreign box office numbers hitting a collective 425 million in sales since its release, the excitement about this movie mounts. Along with soaring sales, they won a Grammy and an Oscar for the movie's original song "Shallow." Lady Gaga won a Critics' Choice award for Best Actress and the movie has had countless nominations for acting, writing and adaptation. The numbers don't lie. This movie is special.

A month has gone by since I went to the theatre to see this remake. I still can't shake the impact it has had on me. The first time I heard their hit song "Shallow" on the radio I immediately downloaded the soundtrack. A holdover from my high school days when we bought the album, then recorded them onto a cassette to listen to in the car. Archaic I know, but great music is just great music.

I listen to the soundtrack and sing at the top of my lungs. It impacts me still. The storyline hasn't left me either, I consider it's message as well. This remake lingers around your heart long after you've left the theater. But the beauty is in the remake: the chemistry, the plainness, the rawness of their emotions on screen, the rawness of the message, and the sheer nakedness in the talent.

"All you have to do is trust me," he said. In the end, she does. In the end, they make a beautiful movie together.

This movie is a must see. Don't wait.