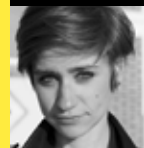




2016 got off to a tragic start with the news of David Bowie's death. Music journalist Eve Barlow is still reeling

# Goodbye STARMAN



## I KEEP EXPERIENCING

Bowie's death. The first time he died was the same moment for all of us, just two days after the release of his *Blackstar* album.

A Sunday night for me in LA – a Monday morning in the UK. 10 January. I had just finished writing a report from the funeral of Motörhead frontman Lemmy, which I'd attended the day before. I made a quick dash outside for cereal and milk. By the time I got home, the news had broken. I plonked myself down, tears leaving make-up all over my face – a painting of grief and joy in celebration of a life that relentlessly inspired. Bowie changed everything before we knew he had to; he changed sound, he propelled vision, he altered language. I put on my favourite album, *Station To Station*, and sat for hours – empty, the colour draining from the world. The milk never made it to the fridge.

Like I said, that was the first time I experienced Bowie's death. It hit me hard again when I stumbled into a hotel lobby in Texas at 5.30am and *Heroes* was playing. It floored me every time I heard *Let's Dance* in a club. I felt it whenever I passed Bowie's star on the Walk of Fame. I became fixated with *Looking For Water* from his 2003 album *Reality* during 2016's most troubling moments. 'Take my hand as we go down and down,' offered Bowie. 'I can't breathe the air/Can't raise the fight/Cos all we've got left is a beat in the night.' Bowie's endeavours are eternally current, rendering his absence impossible to accept. How can a star from the future be a twinkle in the past? Even in dying, David Bowie is still doing.

## IT WAS THE MONTH THAT...

### Obama tightened gun laws

A tearful President Obama took executive action to introduce more background checks on firearms buyers despite opposition from Congress and



the powerful National Rifle Association.

### Zika outbreak

The mosquito-borne virus continued to spread and, in January, the World Health Organization predicted

it would spread throughout most of the Americas by the end of the year. The virus, which can cause microcephaly and other brain abnormalities in unborn children, was declared a global Public

Health Emergency just weeks later.

### Kate went public with the Count

The rumours had been circulating for a couple of months, but in January Kate Moss

was pictured in Brazil holding hands with Count Nikolai von Bismarck – son of Kate's good friend Debbie – confirming their relationship (which has been on again/off again ever since).

## We also said goodbye to...



**Alan Rickman, 14 Jan**  
From Shakespeare to Harry Potter, he played villains and romantic leads with languid ease. 'He was the ultimate ally,' said Emma Thompson.



**Terry Wogan, 31 Jan**  
**Paul Daniels (left), 17 March**  
**Ronnie Corbett, 31 March**



### Victoria Wood, 20 April

The ground-breaking comedian brought us *Acorn Antiques*, *Dinnerladies* and strict instructions on what to do with a *Woman's Weekly*. The only good thing about her death from cancer was that we got to indulge in her perfectly observed comedy all over again.



### Prince, 21 April

The Grammy Award-winning media-shunning showman sold more than 100 million records during a 30-year career. His sudden death left fans united in grief that we may never see talent on Prince's scale again.



### Muhammad Ali, 3 June



### Caroline Aherne, 2 July

She relentlessly skewered her celebrity guests as Mrs Merton and reduced us to tears of laughter and sadness as Denise in *The Royle Family*. A secretary turned national treasure, Aherne died following a secret struggle with lung cancer.

### Gene Wilder, 29 August

The theatre and big screen comedy star's big-hearted performances meant that when Wilder passed away – aged 83, as a result of Alzheimer's – it felt as if Willy Wonka himself had died.



### Leonard Cohen, 7 Nov

**AA Gill (left), 10 Dec**