

gunning for. Although she also landed a part in the Richard Curtis movie *About Time* (2013), it's Robbie as Naomi, pushing her stiletto into a helpless DiCaprio's face, simpering in her spot-on Brooklyn accent, that is seared into everyone's minds.

Does she have time to reflect on the ways her life has changed? "I honestly don't," she says. "It's not until I do interviews... where someone points it out or puts it so explicitly, that I'm like, 'Yeah, wow, it's crazy and bizarre.' Initially when people ask me that, I say, 'No, life hasn't really changed that much.' And they'll ask, 'But are there paparazzi?' And I'm like, 'Yeah, *that's* crazy.'

"THERE HAVE BEEN ASSUMPTIONS I'LL DO NUDITY IN EVERY FILM, WHICH I WON'T"

And they're like, 'You've been to the Oscars?' And I say, '*That's* crazy, too.' So yeah, life's actually changed a lot, but I [haven't noticed] because the changes have been implemented gradually."

Like the proverbial frog in boiling water? "Yep, good analogy," she laughs. "That's exactly what it's like. I'm guessing the frog dies at the end of that one but, ah, we won't get to the ending. So, things have changed and gotten crazy, but I guess when things are so fast-paced, you're just trying to keep in step with it all. My focus has just been on keeping up to speed."

Has she been offered other sex-bomb roles since *Wolf*? Is there an expectation she'll do nudity now? She nods. "You hit the nail on the head. There have been a lot of assumptions since then that I'll do nudity in every film, which I really don't want. It's not that I'm for nudity, or against it. It's just that I don't think it's necessary to put it in the film for shock value. In *The Wolf of Wall Street*, there needed to be shock value. [Naomi] needed to come out naked for him to stop and be, 'Whoa!' It was in context."

When she's not doing the movie-star thing – filming in far-flung locations, looking glamorous on red carpets and being linked to A-list actors in the tabloids – Robbie keeps it real. Her home base is a London share-house, where she finds herself stepping over the many houseguests that crash at her place.

"Three of the housemates are boys," she says. "We thought we could keep the house clean on our own. Turns out, we can't, so

we try to get a cleaner in once a week, [but] it's still an absolute pigsty. We have so many friends staying with us. There are five of us living there, but most of the time there are about eight people sleeping there, and then on weekends, sometimes you wake up and there are 11 people. We've got that house with the revolving door; it's the best. I love it so much."

One of her flatmates is childhood friend Sophia Kerr, who now works as her assistant. She'd been going to events as Robbie's 'plus one' and generally being helpful during the madness of getting ready – letting stylists in, fetching Diet Cokes and organising drivers.

One night, before the *Empire* Awards last year (where she was named Best Female Newcomer), Robbie remarked to her friend that she was "really good at this", and Kerr replied: "This is what I do for a job, remember? I'm a team assistant."

Robbie continues: "Then a couple of months later, they tell me, 'So, we're hiring your assistant for *Tarzan*. Can you come in and interview people?' And I say, 'Actually, I already have someone.'

'Great,' they say, 'bring them in.'

And we're both thinking [Robbie leans forward conspiratorially], 'Are we allowed to do this?' And now Sophia works for me full-time as my assistant."

It sounds like the plot of the HBO comedy (created by and starring Emily Mortimer) *Doll & Em*, I say. "I know!" says Robbie. "Everyone's told us about it. Like, 'It's you two!' But it's great getting to hang out with your best friend all the time. Plus, she's literally born for this job. She's *so* good."

In the TV series, the boss-employee dynamic puts a serious strain on the friendship. Have the pair experienced similar issues, with Robbie becoming a bit of a diva and Kerr having to knock her down a few pegs? "No, but a couple of times, if I've been upset over something, she'll say, 'Hey, it's not that big a deal.' And I'm like, 'Yep, you're right, it's not.'"

So, she thinks their friendship will survive? "It has so far," says Robbie. "It's like the most perfect friendship and work relationship. It's solid."

Another important person in her life is her boyfriend, Englishman Tom Ackerley, who she met when he was working as an assistant director on her upcoming wartime drama *Suite Française*. Fresh from my pre-interview Google of Robbie, where I found photos of the pair at a Rangers game the previous night, I recognise Ackerley waiting for the lift on my way up to meet her.

"Oh, no way!" she says, smiling. "He must be heading out."

He's very cute, I add. Well done.

"My grandma said the same thing," Robbie laughs, describing their recent meeting in Australia. "She said, 'Isn't he handsome?' and I said, 'He's right here, you can stop speaking about him as if he's not right here.' She was very cute. And then she says, 'And he's so tall.' I was like, 'Again, stating the obvious, and he's still right here. Moving on!' It was very funny."

With different filming schedules, it must be difficult for them to be in the same place at the same time.

"Yeah, I mean, this is a rare occasion where he could actually get away from work in between jobs, but it's so hard," she explains. "There's so much travelling. I don't know how anyone makes a relationship work [like this], to be honest."

Lots of Skype?

"Yep, lots of Skype."

Robbie had better get used to being in demand. Her performance in *Z for Zachariah*, as a resourceful farmer's daughter, left alone and struggling for survival, created a lot of buzz at the recent Sundance Film Festival. It prompted this observation by *Vanity Fair's* film critic Richard Lawson: "But for all its quiet graces, all its human sighs and insights, the film loses a critical amount of weight as it gradually sidelines the wonderful woman created by Margot Robbie. Who, it should be said, is now a movie star. As far as I'm concerned, anyway."

But back to *Focus*, the film we're here to talk about. It's a rom-com in the charming guise of a classic crime caper. Robbie's co-star, Smith, is 22 years her senior – something I had to double-check because he's so ripped, it's hard to believe he's 46.

"I know!" she says. "Like, honestly. That body. Twentysomething-year-olds couldn't achieve that body. It's absurd."

I reel off a list of her other co-stars, all playing her love interest, and their ages: DiCaprio, 40; Pine, 34; Ejiofor, 37;