

CHARLIE - Phone Call

KINKY BOOTS

Charlie Sides

Side 6 of 6

START

CHARLIE

(Into the phone)

Hello... Lola. Guess who again. We're on our way to the airport but there's a monumental hole where you should be. Which is no surprise.

CHARLIE (cont'd)

Whenever you leave a room, there's always a great big gaping gap. Just how life with you is. Anyway, I want you to know that I don't blame you for being angry. The way I shot off my yap, I'd walk out on myself if I could. Leave it to me to finally find my passion and use it to hurt someone I love.

LOLA is slowly revealed in flowing gown, upstage.

CHARLIE (cont'd)

But forget me. Forget Milan. Forget the boots and business. What I wanted to say was; if anyone ever tries to tell you you're something less than a man, you have them see me. If being a man means being brave enough to take on the entire world then you're the ONLY man I've ever known. Certainly the best. You challenged Don to change his mind, but I'm the one who really needed that lesson.

MUSIC: HOLD ME IN YOUR HEART

(vamp)

CHARLIE (cont'd)

So, this is Charlie from Northampton telling Simon from Clacton he's so terribly sorry. Goodbye, Lola. And thank you.

HE hangs up the phone.

STOP

"KINKY BOOTS"

LOLA SIDES

SIDE 3 of 3

LOLA comes down from the office, very pleased with herself.

LOLA

If you're done making wedding plans, can we finish discussing the Milan show?

CHARLIE

There's no discussion to be had. We're using professional models. Done.

LOLA

Then you'd better get on the phone because I just called and fired them.

CHARLIE

I never told you that you could...

LOLA

Think, Charlie. My girls don't need to be paid. They'll do it for cocktails and giggles and the chance to walk a professional runway. And my girls do their own hair and make-up so there's the money we need to get us to Milan.

CHARLIE is barely holding back his temper...

CHARLIE

How do I get this into your head? We are marketing to the world's most sophisticated buyers...

LOLA

Half of whom probably watch the evening news wearing their wives' brassieres.

CHARLIE

Newsflash for Lola: There are a whole lot of us who don't watch the evening news in brassieres.

LOLA

Well, you ain't my buyers.

CHARLIE

Then I've got another newsflash for you: I'm not flying all the way 'cross Europe just to sell to your chums.

LOLA

We won't be selling to anyone if we can't get to Milan.

CHARLIE

Well there's no reason to go if all we've got to show is a bunch of Nancy-boys stomping about in skirts. We need to show our boots on women.

"KINKY BOOTS"

LOLA SIDES

SIDE 3 of 3

LOLA

That was never the deal.

CHARLIE

Then the deal was wrong.

LOLA

These boots were specifically designed for...

CHARLIE

Save your breath. I am not embarrassing the name of Price & Son by parading a planeload of misfits -

LOLA

Misfits?

CHARLIE

- at the most influential footwear show in the world. We're showing them on women.

LOLA

What did that girl say to you?

CHARLIE

These boots can be mainstream!

LOLA

Drag queens are mainstream. Just this morning I was offered a gig singing at a nursing home. A nursing home, Charlie. In Clacton.

CHARLIE

And maybe that's just where you belong. Look at you. You're meant to be a business person. How many successful designers do you think go about camped up like the entertainment at a low-rent tea dance.

LOLA

After all I've shared with you - you still think I'm wearing this for lack of a pair of trousers?

CHARLIE

I get it. I understand. All of this fru-fru protects who you really are. I heard you.

LOLA

You heard nothing.

CHARLIE

I'm telling you - you don't have to hide. Once the industry sees your work you'll be able to stop all this and have a normal life.

"KINKY BOOTS"

LOLA SIDES

SIDE 3 of 3

LOLA

You're a fool.

CHARLIE

Am I? I'd wager if we stood side by side and asked passersby which one of us is fooling himself most of the votes would swing your way. Why am I the only one here who believes in you?

LOLA

You believe in my shoes. I'm not my shoes.

CHARLIE

No. You're a joke. You think you're being all mystical and deep representin' the best of both sexes but I'm here to tell you all you are is daft. You say you want to be treated like a man; then start acting like one. I'm sorry, but sometimes the truth hurts.

LOLA

The truth? The truth? We're done here.

LOLA turns away from him.

CHARLIE

And Simon... That's right, Simon... When you show up at the airport, try to look something like your passport photo. Yes? For both our sakes.

LOLA stares at him, open mouthed, nonplussed, destroyed... SHE fades back and away...