

MEN'S ROOM OF THE FACTORY:

*CHARLIE enters the empty bathroom.  
LOLA is hiding in a stall.*

**START**

CHARLIE

Lola? It's Charlie. Are you sick?

LOLA

Depends who you ask.

*LOLA opens the stall door and CHARLIE gets a look at his clothing.*

CHARLIE

No! Did someone nick your frock?

LOLA

I come up with the daft idea that maybe I should try to fit in.

CHARLIE

Probably get a lot more work done this way. Less bits and bobs to catch in the machines.

LOLA

Thanks for your support. Gawd! In a gown I can bellow Brunhilde in front of five hundred drunks and have a laugh. But put me in men's clothes and I can't sodding well say Hello. What am I doing here, Charlie?

CHARLIE

Becoming a designer.

LOLA

Did I ever ask to be one?

CHARLIE

Did you always want to be a performer? I mean, when you were a kid.

LOLA

Whatever it was I wanted as a kid, my father beat out of me.

CHARLIE

Your dad hit you?

LOLA

(Amused at the concern)

Not like that. He was a boxer.

*CHARLIE reacts again.*

LOLA (cont'd)

Yup. A proper prize fighter he was, who never got the title match he wanted. But presented with a baby boy..? Well... If he couldn't raise a champion's belt over his head, his son would.

CHARLIE

He didn't know about...?

LOLA

Of course he knew. But he figured if he pushed me... Trained me himself. You heard right - I am a professionally trained boxer with a dozen amateur bouts to my name, so don't try me. But when I appeared for a fight in a white cocktail dress... He disowned me. Refused to see me. Even when he come down with lung cancer. It's ironic really; fags got him in the end.

*THEY share a laugh.*

LOLA (cont'd)

And you? You like making shoes?

CHARLIE

The day I was born dad set me down next in the line of Price and Son. For him a done deal. But for me? First opportunity I grabbed my childhood sweetie and hopped the next train out of town.

MUSIC: I'M NOT MY FATHER'S SON

LOLA

What was it you ran off to do?

CHARLIE

Anything but what he wanted.

LOLA

And yet here you are.

CHARLIE

Here I am.