Callback Side #2 (Charlie, Lola & Lauren)

MUSICAL STING.

CHARLIE

"Take what you got." "Change the product." "Find an under-served niche market." And they are certainly a completely under-served niche market!

NICOLA

Have you gone off your nut?

CHARLIE

Nic... I'll ring you back.

THE MUSICAL VAMP RAMPS UP AGAIN...

Excitedly, CHARLIE calls out over his microphone...

Lauren to the office! Lauren come see Mr Pri... Charlie in his office! NOW!

LAUREN meets up with CHARLIE in the office. HE grabs her hand and pulls her back down the stairs toward...

BACK TO THE STAGE:

LOLA	ANGELS
	STEP IN
STEP IN TO A DREAM	
	WHERE GLAM
GLAMOUR IS EXTREME	
	WELCOME
WELCOME TO OUR FANTASY	
WE GIVE GOOD EPIPHANY	WE GIVE GOOD EPIPHANY
SO COME AND TAKE MY HAND WELCOME TO THE LAND OF LOLA.	LOLA

LOLA'S SONG resumes exactly where it had broken off. CHARLIE and LAUREN appear in the club...

LOLA joins them at a table.

START **LOLA**

(to Lauren)

You've got a dark horse in this boyfriend of yours.

BOTH jump at the suggestion.

CHARLIE

She's not my... I have another...

LAUREN

No, no, no. Nothing going on here. He's got another girl. I just stuff his boxes. At least for the next two weeks.

LOLA

(to Charlie)

What are you staring at?

LAUREN

You'll have to forgive him. We don't get many transvestites in Northampton.

LOLA

Don't kid yourself. You're never more than ten steps away from some kind of cross-dresser. In any case, those are not transvestites. They're drag queens.

LAUREN

There's a difference?

LOLA

A drag queen puts on a frock and suddenly she's Cleopatra. A transvestite gets done up and, often as not, looks like Winston Churchill in his mother's knickers.

CHARLIE

And so you are... ?

LOLA

Insulted that you need to ask. So, you fired this lovely girl?

CHARLIE

Things aren't very good in men's shoes.

LOLA

Certainly I'm not.

CHARLIE

How much do you weigh?

LOLA

Exactly the right amount.

CHARLIE

For a man. But you're wearing women's boots.

LOLA

And I thought you weren't paying attention.

CHARLIE

Well, it's all wrong.

LOLA

Hasn't stopped me yet.

CHARLIE

A heel made for a woman cannot possibly support a man's weight. You need something special.

LOLA

And I deserve something special.

CHARLIE

Well, if you trans-vet-erans are everywhere, like you say, then there must be a niche market for properly built-to-last women's boots for women who are men. Yes? No? The international shoe exhibition is in Milan next month. If we had something new to show... Something no one else in the world has to offer... Might just save the factory.

LAUREN

(getting it finally)

Ha!

CHARLIE

I'd like to measure you up, go back and make a sample pair.

LOLA stands, lifts her skirt and offers her leg. CHARLIE takes out his tape measure but is stopped by LOLA...

LOLA

First riddle me this: Who gets to keep the boots? I'll give you a hint: The correct answer is, "You do, Lola".

CHARLIE

You do Lola.

LOLA

Where do I pick them up? Price's of Northampton, is it?

CHARLIE

No! I'll bring them to you. I come to London all the time.

LOLA

You don't want me to come to Northampton, do you?

CHARLIE

No.

LOLA

Sorry, but I have a terrible habit of doing exactly the opposite of what people ask, which might be why I'm wearing this frock today. See you in Northampton.

LOLA starts to leave but turns back...

And... make them RED.

END

LOLA exits along with the CLUB.

#6 – Step One

CHARLIE is suddenly alone in his office...

PRICE & SON FACTORY:

Accompanied by his musical vamp, CHARLIE chooses a bolt of leather and rolls it out on his desk.

Charlie launches into cutting, stitching, shaping and creating a boot.

CHARLIE

DO I BELONG HERE?
AM I WHAT'S WRONG HERE?
KNOW WHAT I'M DOING?
OR AM I A FRAUD?
DO I FIT IN?
WHERE DO I BEGIN?
SAME OLD CHARLIE,
FRIGHTENED AND FLAWED.
SO, I PRETEND
AND KEEP MY HEAD UP LIKE I
KNOW HOW THIS WILL END.

MAYBE THESE PIECES
ARE FALLING TOGETHER.
MAKING ME FEEL LIKE
I'M NOT ALONE.
PUNCHING HOLES
INTO THIS LEATHER
THIS KIND'A FEELS LIKE
I'M BACK HOME.

I'M WATCHING MYSELF