

CHARLIE STERN AUDITION SCENE: (WITH CLAIRE)

—

LIVING ROOM

(AGITATED, IRRITATED CLAIRE IS PACING WHEN
CHARLIE BREEZES IN IN RESPONSE TO HER SUMMONS)

CHARLIE

Hey, you.

CLAIRE

What the hell were you thinking using my
phone to make that call?!

CHARLIE

Hey, hey, calm down...

CLAIRE

No, I will not calm down! You've ruined
everything!

CHARLIE

Claire, let me ask you a question. Why'd
you come to me instead of any other guy?
Because I'm smart, right?

CLAIRE

I thought you were!

CHARLIE

I am. And I always cover my tracks.

CLAIRE

What are you talking about?

CHARLIE

I blocked the call, so no one will ever
be able to trace it back to you.

(BEAT, MOVES CLOSE A BIT MORE
CONFIDENT)

Now. Don't you feel silly? Getting all
worked up over nothin'.

CLAIRE

Oh, no you don't. You're not going to
sweet-talk your way out of this one,
Charlie. You messed up!

CHARLIE

(FEELING SHAMED - HINT OF ANGER)

I was only following orders, boss.

CLAIRE

Following orders?!

CHARLIE

Claire, I'm trying to help you... All I
want is to see you happy.

CLAIRE

Do I look happy to you?

CHARLIE

No

Look, I'll make it up to you, all right?
If it doesn't work out with that DiMera
guy I'll find someone else to front you
the start-up money...

CLAIRE

No, you won't. Because we're not working
together anymore. I'd have a better
luck partnering with a rock.

CHARLIE

(EXPRESSION DARKENS)

Now, that's not a nice thing to say...

CLAIRE

It's the truth. We're done. So, from
here on in, just stay away from me.

(SHE STARTS OUT BUT CHARLIE SUDDENLY GRABS HER
ARM ROUGHLY)

CHARLIE

Actually... I don't think that's gonna
happen.

CLAIRE

(SCARED)

Charlie... you're hurting me...

(HE DOESN'T LET GO, HIS EXPRESSION NOW COLD
AND THREATENING)

CHARLIE

Here's how I see this going... you're
going to apologize for treating me like
a jerk, and then I'm going to continue
on as we planned. Does that sound all
right with you?

(SCARED, CLAIRE NODS)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Because if I remember correctly... you
came to me... and asked me for help.
Not the other way around.

CLAIRE

(LOW)

I'm sorry...

CHARLIE

What was that?

CLAIRE

I said I'm sorry! Now, please let go of
my arm.

(HE DOESN'T, ALMOST CHILDLIKE)

CHARLIE

And you didn't mean what you just said.

You're not getting rid of me.

CLAIRE

No...

(A BEAT, THEN CHARLIE RELEASES HER)

CHARLIE

Good.

(REALIZING HE REVEALED TOO MUCH)

Look, I'm sorry if I scared you... It's
just I know I can help you... And I know
if we work together, we'll get you what
you want.

CLAIRE

Right. .

(CHARLIE MOVES TOWARDS HER - CHEMICALLY)

CHARLIE

Hey, everything's going to work out...

You don't need to worry. I promise.

(SHE MUSTERS A SMALL SMILE AS SHE EXTRICATES,
ANXIOUS TO GET AWAY FROM HIM)