

CHAPTER 2

" Basically Charlie, It's simple... " Miranda answers chirpily, deliberately smiling broadly to deter the bouncers potential intervention. " Mark is a pig man! " Charlie unintentionally lets out a giggle.

Mark scowls at Charlie, before addressing Miranda's statement. " How am I a pig man when all I did was engage in some harmless banter? "

" Look me in the eyes and tell me that you honestly think the way you acted and the words you just used were appropriate?? " Serena says incredulously.

Mark shrugs his shoulders.

Charlie's boyfriend Parker puts his hand up in casual protest. " I have to say that I've known Mark for a good ten years and in the time I've known him I can't imagine him being inappropriate. "

" Oh, you can't, can you? " Serena says, unsuccessfully stifling her desire to laugh at the ridiculousness of the conversation. " So, I take it that you think it's completely acceptable to chuck a bunch of cum catchers in my face? "

" Cum catchers? " Charlie asks, seconds before realising her reference to condoms. " Actually, don't worry, I got it. "

" I didn't throw them in your face. " Mark protests.

" You're missing the point pig prick- " Serena bites.

" Can everybody stop with the pork themed put downs! "

" Bacon bastard.. " Leona whispers under her breath.

" Face it! " Karina says, looking him up and down. " You don't know how to talk to women, so I suggest you don't bother - ever again. "

" Enough ladies, " Parker announces. " I think you've made your point. "

" Thank you! " Mark responds gratefully.

Charlie turns towards him, nudging him lightheartedly. " Not so fast Mark. I have to say, if that condom catastrophe is truly your best approach at getting a girl interested in you, then I have to agree with Leona. A Guinea Fowl has more game than you."

" Are you trying to say that I can't get a girl to date me?" Mark answers defensively. "That I'm undatable?"

" Well, if the cap fits. " Serena sharply remarks.

" Don't you mean, if the bacon's crispy? " Miranda giggles.

Leona, hearing her friends comments, nearly chokes on her drink.

" or the cracklings crunchy? " Karina adds.

" Okay, okay! There's only one way I can see this dispute being settled. " Mark says, nodding towards a group of girls, congregated by the bar.

" Hang on, let me just check that they are straight." Karina says with dominance.

" I think the wedding dress wearing woman in the middle is a bit of a giveaway." Mark sneers sarcastically.

" I'm so happy, I could literally die. " Serena, without breaking her stare looks over at the group and grins.

Karina gestures towards him, “ Off you fuck then, Casanova.”

With one parting glance, he finishes his beer then confidently strides over to the women.

“ This should be interesting.” Miranda says, judging his body language.

As they watch him intently, waiting for a sign of either his success or failure, Selina suddenly points excitedly at one of the women reaching for a beer that belongs to the man to her right. Within seconds the contents are launched squarely into Mark’s face.

“ Well, at least we know it wasn’t just a one-off, ” Miranda chuckles gleefully. “ By the looks of it, he just doesn’t know how to speak to women... look.”

When they all look back at the aftermath, they can see a new man patiently trying to calm, a now irate, Mark down.

“ Ladies, you know I said earlier that I’m done with men now - ” Serena says salaciously. “ yeah, I’m definitely taking that back after seeing him. ”

“ You’re not kidding, ” Leona adds “ I’ve suddenly become very aware of my vagina...”

Melissa, biting down on her bottom lip, adds, “ Well, if yours has only just started talking to you, mine’s screaming at me!”

“ Is it wrong that I just want to see him pull his shirt off, punch Mark in the face, and then pour a beer all over himself and watch the foam head southward? ” Serena adds hungrily.

“ Not at all honey, I’d be worried if you didn’t as I have a very similar scenario playing in my head too, ” Melissa says taking a long sip of her Martini, “ the only difference being that he’s using the beer as lube to stimulate his probably magnificent cock. ”

The stranger, as if sensing all their eyes fixated on him, turns around.

“ Shit! ” Selina exclaims, “ I think he’s seen us. ”

Charlie sighs and rolls his eyes sarcastically. “ No! Do you think? No, wait, I think he’s looking at the picture on the wall behind us. ”

Taking her mobile from her pocket, Selina places it next to her ear. “ Uh huh, yep, no, sure I can pass on the message. Just had a phone call from the whole world - they wanted to let you know that you’re not fucking funny. ”

The man, still looking in their direction, smiles when he notices her animated rebuttal.

Selina turns her head towards the direction of the man when she sees the flirtatious look on all of her friends’s faces, with the exception of Karina. “ Did I just imagine that, or did he just smile at me!? ”

She returns her attention to the group for confirmation that he did. “ Hello? Did he? ”

“ He did, ” Parker starts then pauses, “ which is why it’s confusing me that he’s just walked out. Now correct me if I’m wrong but isn’t that a bizarre thing to do if you clearly have a crush on someone? It’s like picking up a Danish pastry in a bakery, taking a lick of the cream then putting it back on the counter. ”

Picking up her handbag and phone, Leona stands up. “ What are you waiting for, let’s follow him! ”

“ Not a chance!” Selina says, laughing at her preposterous suggestion.

Leona, completely oblivious to the inappropriate thought, replies. “ Why on earth not?! You think he’s sexy, right?! ”

“ Because I’m not a pervert slash stalker slash desperate psycho bunny boiler!! That’s why not!! ”

“ Oh please! Everybody does it, chill out hun. ” Leona answers.

“ NO THEY DON’T ! ” Karina, Melissa and Selina answer collectively. “ RIGHT GUYS? ”

Charlie and Parker look at each other, non plussed, and shrug.

“ Of course we did. ” Charlie says matter of fact. “ Grindr didn’t come out until two thousand and nine, how else do you think we could pick up guys? ”

“ He’s right, ” Parker adds. “ Many a time I found myself walking down the cooked meats aisle at my local Asda just so I could grab a sausage. ”

“ Really? ” Melissa remarks inquisitively, “ A supermarket? Seriously? ”

Charlie nods enthusiastically. “ Think about it, it would help to give us the necessary clues. ”

“ Even I’m confused now and you’re my brother.” Selina cuts in, “ What do you mean? ”

“ Their purchases. For example if the guy is buying baby wipes, but no nappies. ” Charlie states.

Parker interjects excitedly, “ Or if he’s buying Sushi instead of a meat based sandwich on his lunch break. ”
“ Oh, and how can we forget the biggest giveaway... buying lube, ” Charlie completes their collective train of thought with a self-contented smile.

The women take a brief moment to attempt to understand the coherency of the gay guys’ sweeping statements. “ You’re going to need to give us a little bit more than that, ” Selina probes.

Charlie takes a deep breath, then starts to reel off their explanation. “ If a guy is buying baby wipes and nappies in combination, chances are he has a newborn baby. If he’s buying baby wipes alone then he’s gay and using them to wipe his ass after douching. No straight man would buy wipes unless he’s a transvestite and needs to remove his makeup. ”

“ Let me get the next one, ” Parker announces, “ although I really shouldn’t have to be explaining this one as it’s obvious. ”

“ Go on, ” Selina rolls her finger in a circular motion in front of her, to encourage him to finish.

Parker pauses, then arrogantly answers, “ Ladies, when was the last time you witnessed a straight guy picking up a tiny assed pack of meticulously constructed, yet incredibly pretentious, packet of overpriced sushi, in favour of a hearty meat filled sandwich? Next! ”

“ Finally, and I’m actually amazed that you didn’t figure this one out, ” Charlie says, shaking his head in feigned indignation, “ If a guy is buying lube, there are

only two reasons as to why he would need to. Number one, he's clearly a shit lover if he can't make his woman wet from just using his fingers or, number two, his partner suffers from vaginal dryness which, unless he gets aroused by sexagenarian, septuagenarian, or octogenarians, he's gayer than a very gay, gay man. ”

Leona smiles smugly, “ See, that's where you're wrong, you missed out one other reason... anal sex! ”

The girls all look at each other and start to giggle.

“ Well, at least we now know who likes a bit of poop penetration then! ” remarks Charlie.

Blushing, Leona tries to backtrack, but the more she tries, the redder she goes. “ Actually I only did it once, and it wasn't even intentional in the first place. ”

“ How is that even possible? I'm sure his cock didn't just fall into your pussy! ” splutters Parker at her defence.

“ No, ” she starts, “ this guy was fucking me fast and rigorously then he.. misaimed. ”

The three other women all winced in unison.

“ Ouch, honey. ” Selina softly empathises. “ What did you do? ”

“ Bled! ” Leona yelps. “ All over the pillows, the duvet, It looked like the aftermath of Sweeney Todd's latest throat slash. ”

Melissa, without thinking, blurts out. “ I bet your asshole looked like the neck wound too. ”

“ I may have had accidental anal but at least I haven’t been so drunk that I forget to remove my tampon on a night out. ” Leona retaliates.

“ It wasn’t that noticeable. ” Melissa answers, fidgeting in her chair.

Selina laughs. “ Come on girl, it looked like a Dormouse was using your dress to go in to hibernation. ”

“ You can talk ” Melissa responds sharply. ” at least when I get drunk I don’t think my handbag is a fucking helicopter blade! ”

Karina steps in the middle of the three women. “ See, this is precisely why I’m a lesbian! Men are nothing but trouble.It took only one man to be the reason you are all fighting. Can we stop and just move on with the rest of our night? ”

“ She’s right. ” Charlie says, briefly shooting Karina a glare when he continues. “ Not about the nasty man hating stuff but let’s just move on. ”

“ Im going back to the bar to order a Rusty Oyster. ” Karina announces, ignoring Charlie’s chastising response.

Once she is out of earshot, Charlie looks towards the group. “ She definitely needs to get laid. ”

“Totally, ” Parker agrees, “ I mean, I know I’ve never met her before, but I’m assuming she’s normally lovely? ”

The girls all look at each other, then back at the two gay men before non verbally replying with a shake of their heads.

Parker, without thinking says. “ Well, if that’s the case, how on earth or more to the point, why on earth are you all friends with her if she’s normally a bitch? ”

“ Come on guys, she’s not that bad. ” Selina states calmly. ”

Leona interrupts. “ To be fair to the guys, she does have a bit of a chip on her shoulder. ”

“ A Walkers share bag more like! ” Parker exclaims, emphatically throwing his hands to the ceiling.

“ She’s definitely misandrous!” Charlie adds, “ and to mo’s too! ”

Melissa, getting annoyed by the bickering interjects. ” Whatever the opinion, she will be in a much better mood now she’s got her pussy power on... see. ”

Looking over, they notice that Karina is furiously flirting with the previous woman she was interested in.

“ Wait, I’ve only just realised. ” Leona says quietly, almost vaguely.

“ That it’s really annoying when someone tells you half a story in the vain attempt to try and create suspense? ” Charlie says under his breath.

Leona, oblivious to his quip, continues her revelation. “ the woman that Karina is talking to was chatting to the handsome guy before he left the club. ”

“ I’m pretty sure she wasn’t interested in him. It’s part of the whole lesbian extravaganza, ” Parker says dryly. Besides, her head is already halfway up her cooch. ”

Looking annoyed, Leona carries on. “ I know stupid, I’m just saying that she knows him. So, since she

knows him, that means she will probably have his phone number.. ”

Selina’s eyes widen and an excited grin spreads across her face. “ See, that’s a normal way of getting to know a guy. Not stalking him halfway across town just to get laid. ”

Melissa gestures for Karina to rejoin them temporarily to share their plan with her.

Reluctantly, she makes her excuses and heads towards Melissa. “ This had better be good. ”

“ Karina, ” Selina starts cautiously but sweetly. “ you know how much you love me? “

Karina looks back at her suspiciously. “ uh huh... ”

“ and you know how much you’d like me to be happy and content. ”

“ Go on... ” She answers impatiently.

“ Remember that guy that smiled at me. ” Selina continues.

Karina rolls her eyes. “ How could I forget, I’d have to have had instant amnesia If I didn’t. ”

“ True, ” she says, edging closer to her question. “ It appears that the guy knows the woman you are talking to.. ”

Karina shakes her head. “ You want me to ask her for his number, don’t you? “,

“ Maybe..” Selina replies quietly.

“ No! I am not going to ask her! I have only *just* met her! ” Karina shouts above the loud music.

Selina, changing tack, reminds Karina how she helped her out during her last breakup. “ come on this is

nothing. I let you stay at mine when the shit hit the fan, surely you can just do this small thing for me. ”

Karina stares at her defiantly then sighs and nods. “ Okay, but this is the last time. After this, we are equal right? ”

“ Not really, ” Selina says without thinking.

“ Girl, do you want me to ask her or not! ”Karina shouts.

Melissa chirps, nudging Selina in the ribs subtly. “ Yes, she would *love* you to ask her and deep inside she’s *really* grateful. ”

Karina, without a word walks away towards the woman.

Before Melissa can say anything to Selina, she starts. “ It’s true though, asking for a phone number does not cancel out her staying rent free for six months at mine, does it. ”

“ True, but I think we all know that this guy has got you more curious than George, so I suggest you keep schtum. ”

Selina reluctantly yields then turns her attention back to the two women’s interaction across the room. She watches as the woman whispers something into her ear, then points in the direction of another woman. She kisses her passionately, takes her phone and types.

“ Looks like it worked. ” Leona says excitedly. “ She’s coming back. ”

“ Remember, ” Melissa says abruptly. “ not another word about who owes the other or comparisons about who’s favour was the biggest. ”

Surprisingly when Karina opens her mouth to address her friends she didn’t look angry or perturbed as she previously had.

“ Are you okay hun? ” queries Selina.

“ Uh huh... ” She starts hollowly.

Selina, her phone in hand, impatiently beckons Karina for her phone to obtain the man’s phone number.

“ There’s something you need to know first. ” Karina continues sternly.

Selina rolls her eyes upwards. “ Yes, I know, be careful, all men are dangerous pigs, liars, cheats, thieves etc. I get it, you hate men. Now give me his digits! ”

“ You dirty minx. ” Leona cheekily interjects in an attempt to diffuse the two friends tension.

Karina, still holding her phone to her chest continues cryptically. “ No, it’s not that. The woman I was chatting up does know the guy but she’s recently chosen to distance herself from him. ”

“ Seriously girl, ” Melissa says with exasperation “ the way you’re delivering this story is infuriating. You have more cliffhangers than the white ones in Dover! ”

Ignoring her, Karina answers slowly. “ I know it was only conjecture given by a random girl- ”

“ Ah is that what that was about. ” Selina exclaims when she recalls Karina’s crush point at another woman in the room. “ So, I’m assuming she accused

him of attempted rape or something like that? Am I close? ”

Karina shakes her head vigorously. “ Not even close. ”

“ Then what? ” Leona quizzes. “ I mean, what could possibly be worse than rape?”

“ Watching back to back episodes of Jeremy Kyle.”
Melissa jokes.

Selina laughs, then adds. “Oh, oh, I know..an entire season of Here Comes Honey Boo Boo.”

Looking in either direction, Karina leans into the group then says in a solemn, low voice. “ She said he tried to kill her... ”