

Cutting (Caroline Andrew)

Interview Transcript

This has been transcribed from an audio interview exactly as it was voiced.

So I am just drafting a pair of trousers and marking the lines of the chalk where I'm going to cut.

[Cutting noise – scissors through fabric]

I'm a tailor. I am based in Mayfair, a couple of years ago I set up on my own and I have sort of carved my own path, because I'm a woman.

I think it's traditionally a very male orientated industry, so I'll often be mistaken for someone's wife or someone's PA.

[Cutting noises in background]

The more I succeed, the more difficulties I come across. You know, I wouldn't be where I am without the older generation, but, there are also some older guys who – who say things just, you know, behind my back like.

“God, I can't understand why she has any clients. It must be because she's got a pair of t**s.”

That was the latest one, which I found quite funny.

But it's very hurtful.

At the beginning when I moved in here 18 months ago, I didn't deal with it very well. I would go home every day after leaving and – erm – just cry on the phone to my mum and she would say just get out of there darling and I just felt I couldn't because then I would have failed.

So, I just stuck at it.

And just cried my way to and from work. And you, you cannot take these things to heart, you just have to give back as good as you get.

So now they say oh, “You've only got clients 'cause you've got a pair of t**s” and I'll say, “Well, how does that work? You've got bigger t**s than me and less clients than me.”

[Laughs]