

SMELL
or
THE MOST AMAZING POOPER SCOOPER
IN FREEDOM, KANSAS AND MAYBE
JUST MAYBE
THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD

CHEERS AND APPLAUSE OVER SAFELY GENERIC RABBLE-ROUSING INTRO MUSIC. THEN LIGHTS. LOTS OF THEM: THE SET OF A MORNING COFFEE CLATCH TELEVISION SHOW.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY, LUCY STONE, AND MADONNA "COZILY" SIT WITH THEIR GUEST, PATRICIA (30S).

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

And we're back.

MADONNA

We're back!

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

I'm here with my co-hostesses Lucy Stone and Madonna--

MADONNA

And she's the amazing Susan B. Anthony--

LUCY STONE

And we're chatting with our guest, Patricia Meehan.

MADONNA

Patty. Can I call you Patty?

PATRICIA

Sure.

LUCY STONE

Patricia, you're really making some amazing waves.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

(politely resistant) A wave-maker does not accept the status quo.

LUCY STONE

And Patricia is not accepting the status quo. What she is doing is including everyone in the cause-- and I'm sad to say it but that does qualify as revolutionary.

MADONNA

These days it really does.

PATRICIA

Honestly? I just saw that my town had a problem and I was well-suited to fix it.

MADONNA

"A problem?!" I'd call it an all-out crisis! Do you know how many times I've gotten dog-- poop-- on my expensive shoes? (giggling) Okay, our Executive Producer Darren is freaking out! (to the studio audience) Everyone look at Darren! Okay, Darren just ducked back into the booth-- You ducked in there fast, Darren, is something burning in there?!

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

She's kidding, everyone. Nothing's burning.

MADONNA

It's not! Darren is just so worried about this "dog poop" segment! He's terrified one of us is going to use a no-no word for it!

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Neither Lucy nor I would ever use a "no-no" word for it.

MADONNA

(giggling, calling out) It's fine, Darren! (back to Patricia, "somber") But seriously. Patty. It's a super, super problem, isn't it.

PATRICIA

Well, you know, I was finding that it was pervading my town. I was stepping into it myself, constantly. And I love my shoes too.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

So you decided to do something about it.

PATRICIA

(Yes.) I started taking plastic baggies with me, you know, the ones they put your groceries in--

MADONNA

Soon you're going to have to pay for those plastic baggies!

LUCY STONE

A different segment.

MADONNA

A different segment.

PATRICIA

Well while they last for free, I'm putting the baggies to good use: Anywhere I see the dog poop, I pick it up.

smell by Sara Israel

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Which is what every single dog owner should be doing for themselves when they walk their own dog.

PATRICIA

(Yes.) But life doesn't always work the way you want it to.

MADONNA

Mmm hmm, mmm hmm, life has thrown you some hard knocks. Tell us a little about the situation into which you were born.

PATRICIA

I think you're referring to the fact that I was born without a sense of smell?

A HUM OF SYMPATHY FROM THE STUDIO AUDIENCE. MADONNA NODS ALONG WITH THEM.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Did that deprivation make you angry?

PATRICIA

You know, I have so many blessings in life, it's hard to feel angry.

MADONNA LEADS THE AUDIENCE (99% FEMALE) IN ROUSING APPLAUSE. LUCY SMILES. SUSAN SIGHS.

LUCY STONE

Let's bring out some of your life blessings, shall we? The women-- and men-- who you've teamed with on your crusade: Please welcome Patricia's husband Geoff--

MADONNA

And her step kids Casey and Whitley!

LUCY STONE

Your family!

ANOTHER PUMP OF SAFELY GENERIC RABBLE-ROUSING MUSIC. THE AUDIENCE CHEERS ON COMMAND. OUT COME GEOFF (50), CASEY (22), AND WHITLEY (18). THE FAMILY TAKES PRE-ASSIGNED SEATS.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Thank you all so much for coming on, especially since this social movement isn't actually your fight.

GEOFF

Anything that's a fight of Patricia's is a fight of mine.

"AW"S FROM THE STUDIO AUDIENCE. CASEY IS BEWILDERED. WHITLEY IS DISGUSTED.

smell by Sara Israel

LUCY STONE

(to Casey and Whitley) You must be so proud of your mother.

WHITLEY

(correcting) Not-even step mother.

CASEY

(with admiration) She's way too young to be my mother, we're practically the same age.

PATRICIA

(to Casey) You're so sweet.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Now. You all live in a town called Freedom, Kansas.

MADONNA

That's amazing. "A Town Called Freedom!" That's, like, an amazing Lifetime movie!

GEOFF

We sure hope.

WHITLEY

(to Madonna) Can I ask you a question?

MADONNA

Shoot!

WHITLEY

Are you representative of Madonna the really old pop star? Or Madonna the even really older religious figure. Because you don't exactly seem like either.

MADONNA

That's an amazing question! (throwing it to the crowd)
Studio audience, what do you think?

50% ENTHUSIASTICALLY SHOUT "POP STAR!" THE OTHER 50%
ENTHUSIASTICALLY SHOUT "RELIGIOUS FIGURE!"

MADONNA, SUSAN, AND LUCY ALL LAUGH.

MADONNA (cont'd)

(to Geoff) See! Your daughter is one smart Chiquita!

GEOFF

Oh yes, Whitley is definitely one smart. . . Chiquita, but what am I seeing exactly?

LUCY STONE

Susan and I haven't agreed on much ever since our agendas split apart at the A.E.R.A. conference in 1869--

smell by Sara Israel