

SCENE 4

Curtains open. SUSAN B. ANTHONY is standing with FREDERICK DOUGLAS

FREDERICK

That was quite the passionate speech you gave Susan.

SUSAN

Thank you, I worked very hard.

FREDERICK

And your sentiments about the negro community?

SUSAN

Now Frederick, you know I'm all for negroes having access to the poll, I just-

FREDERICK

You'd just prefer white women got there first. I understand fighting for your own people, but I have to say, your choice of words left me quite nettled.

SUSAN

Frederick-

FREDERICK

"I'd cut off this arm of mine before I'd let the negro reach the ballot before me!" You really do have a way with words.

SUSAN

You don't have any right to talk, you fight your own people, I fight for mine.

FREDERICK

Do white women not, excluding your case, marry white men?

SUSAN

Yes.

FREDERICK

And correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe white men do have access to the polls.

SUSAN

They do.

FREDERICK

So it's safe to assume that white women in turn do have access to the polls, though minimal. They live under the same roof as these men and thus are able to influence their worldly views. What, I ask you, can a negro man do? He has no white man he can influence and therefore no political power. It is imperative that we are given the right to vote first and only then will we humbly provide our aid to that of women.

SUSAN

You really do have a way with words.

FREDERICK

Thank you my dear.

SUSAN

Now may I ask you a question? Who is that boy in your back room?

FREDERICK

Ah yes, that would be young Malachi. Major Delany asked me to help the boy find his sister, he'd been nearly killed by two confederate war veterans.

SUSAN

How terrible, were they from that same group?

FREDERICK

I'm afraid so. They've got a name now, the KKK. I must admit I'm quite flattered. Before they would hang us just because they could. Of course they still do, but now there's a fan-club devoted to the sport, so I feel special to say the least.

SUSAN

That's rather morbid.

FREDERICK

This nation we live in is morbid.