

DUDLEY. It's just nerves  
DOT. I really can't

DUDLEY. Calm down and relax. You look beautiful, Dorothy. I honestly think we could be looking at the next Mrs. America.

DOT. Dudley, please listen to me —  
DUDLEY. Picture yourself wearing that crown, holding those roses. Now you'll wait right backstage and don't move an inch till the judges call you.

DOT. Dudley — *(Stage Manager enters)*  
STAGE MANAGER. Places, Dudley.

DUDLEY. You're perfect. *(They exit. Bright TV lights up for the evening gown question and final judging.)*

STAGE MANAGER'S VOICE. Our finalists will now present their desserts and — in their evening gowns — they will answer our Final Interview Question worth 65 points — At what moment in your life were you proudest of yourself. For 65 Points — Mrs. San Francisco. *(San Francisco enters wearing her evening gown, holding her ice angel on a silver tray. She holds it up to display to the judges. One slice has been taken out of it, revealing the red center.)*

SAN FRANCISCO. The moment in my life I was proudest of myself is the day my husband was promoted to vice president of his company. Though not a word was spoken, I felt the warm glow of satisfaction in knowing that it was the high standard I set in my home as wife, mother and homemaker that helped my husband realize his goals. Like the successful business, the successful home does not just happen — it is made. And it takes full time dedication, skill and sacrifice. *(She places the ice angel on her table.)* Now I hope you'll have a sample of my dessert. She won't last much longer under these lights.

STAGE MANAGER'S VOICE. Mrs. San Bernardino. *(San Bernardino enters wearing her evening gown carrying a chocolate cake.)*  
SAN BERNARDINO. My dessert is Aunt Irma's Double Chocolate Cake. My proudest moment is to simply stand before all if you tonight and say how proud I am to be a mother and an American.

STAGE MANAGER'S VOICE. Mrs. Los Angeles. *(Dot enters wearing her evening gown and carrying a chocolate cake. She puts the cake on her table. She takes a look at the note card Dudley gave her, and puts it down on the table and looks up at the judges.)*  
DOT. In the winter of 1943 I was an ensign in the WAVES. I was trained in Naval Communications and stationed in Cape May, New Jersey to transmit messages from our headquarters in Washington to our convoys at sea. It was an important job and the feeling was — the feeling was — well, I was very proud. There's never been a time in my life I've been that proud. When I did that work I knew I was right in line with all the women in my family. Eleven generations back we moved from England to Massachusetts Bay for freedom. My grandmother was the first woman in our life for more freedom. My grandmother was the first one to drive a car and she drove herself out of that town to college. So when I signed up with the WAVES, I knew I was moving right along with them. But look at me now. I can't move. I can't even take a normal breath. You probably think I'm crazy, but I'm not. This is crazy. Right Babs? This isn't a contest I'm in up here, it's everyday of my life and I'm so damned good at it I can't stop. *(She turns her back on the judges and returns to her kitchen.)* My dessert is Aunt Irma's Double Chocolate Cake. I added Borden's Cream Cheese to a Betty Crocker mix *(A bear, then.)*

STAGE MANAGER'S VOICE. Mrs. Modesto. *(Mrs. Modesto enters. She wears a stropless, full skirted red satin evening gown. She doesn't wear glasses and she looks beautiful. She holds a birthday cake with all candles lit.)*  
MODESTO. I have seven proudest moments in my life. October 10, 1940 when Billy was born. July 17, 1943, Mark. December 11, 1945, Matthew. April 19, 1949, John. Six yesterday — happy birthday, Johnnie. December 31, 1951, Patricia. May 17, 1953, Laurie. And last February 9, 1955 — our baby — Bobby Junior. *(She holds out the cake.)* This is for all of you kids. I am so proud of you. I love you. *(All contestants stand in place, holding their desserts.)*

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