

## Walking In Victory (Process Not Progress)

By Karena Krull

Theme Song: Today Is Your Day by Shania Twain plays as Thelma enters.

M.C. announces Thelma, a 92 year old woman, who enters slowly using a walker with built in seat. She has 5 feet of toilet paper trailing behind her from under her dress, and wears glasses. Finally arriving at the podium, she faces the back of the stage. M.C. Turns her around, grabs the T.P. holding onto it until her next line.

Thelma: \_\_\_\_\_ Sorry I'm late, I was indisposed, it you catch my meaning.

MC: (Holds up the T.P. to the audience)

Yes, I caught it, all right.

(Sits down in a chair on stage)

Thelma: \_\_\_\_\_ here, asked me to share with you ladies today any wisdom might I have 'bout walking in victory. Well, getting out of bed comes to mind (pauses) but I don't think that's what she had in mind. So I'm a going to tell you like it is. Now don't you be worrin', I won't be too long, at 92 I haven't got too long!

(She turns this way and that way, trying to sit down. She finally succeeds)

Gonna start with three things women need to walk in victorious.

First off, is shoes. You can't walk anywhere without them, can you? And shoes are serious business! No really, I mean business. This here report

(Pulls report out of her bosom)

says in 2006 we women spent 6.9 billion dollars on shoes! Like I said, shoes are serious business! 1,009 women were surveyed about shoes and here's what it says. An average American woman owns 17 pairs of shoes, buys 3 new pairs a year, and spends an average of \$49.00 per pair. Hmm...that puts me waaay above average! Only 17?

(Pauses)

30% of these women admit paying \$100.00 or more, at some time or other, to buy those, "Must have" pair of shoes. Statistics don't lie, ladies! But apparently we do when it comes to us and our shoes!

Not only that but the survey states here

(Points at paper)

that 14% of us married women, hide our shoe purchases from our husbands. Just goes to show you shouldn't believe everything you read on the internet! Only 14%? Ha! I think it's a lot more than that.

When it comes to wearing shoes 60% of us confessed that we are willing to "suffer for fashion." I say, why not? We "suffer" for everything else!

(Puts her glasses into her bosom)

Wanna know the second essential thing ya need to walk victoriously? Handbags. I can't imagine walking anywhere without one, can you? And they go right along sooo nicely with the shoes!

Styles and the contents of a women's purse tend to change with the passing of years. Young girls carry small, beginner purses with a few essentials such as a small brush, mirror, and a few pieces of makeup. Like I said...beginners.

As one graduates in years, we add a cell phone, wallet, car keys, photos, credit cards, and a myriad of cosmetics and other "must haves" for the day.

It's about this time men begin to view our purses as black holes and fear opening one, let alone going into one on their own. Though they're always very grateful when we dive in and hand them something they need.

You can watch a women's purse grow exponentially in size over time as it mutates into a multi purpose lunch box, toy store, diaper bag, and medicine cabinet. Purses literally become miniature shopping malls over time!

Then, right when the sheer weight and size of your purse is taking their toll on your back, you hit middle age, and your purse size begins to dwindle as much as your middle starts to expand.

Till by my age, I don't carry a purse anymore. Couldn't remember where I left it even if I had one. I keep everything close to my heart...no really...see here!

(She takes out the various props from her bosom one at a time, and shows it to the audience as she talks about the item.)

My reading glasses. No strings attached! So! don't forget they're on my head.

(Puts glasses on her head)

My wallet,

(Holds up wallet)

so if I pass out, the medics will find my I.D. right off the bat— really fast.

And to keep me from losing my marbles I keep them right here...Don't look at me like that! They're for my great grandson to play with!

(She pulls out a small bag of marbles)

The third item you need to walk victoriously, but definitely NOT least is toilet paper, especially when you consider the fact that in the old days we used Sears and Roebucks catalogs! Toilet paper's value and comfort is NOT to be taken lightly!

(Rolls out about 4 squares from her bosom)

It's good for blowing or wiping runny noses.

(Demonstrates by blowing nose, making a loud honking noise)

(Rolls out about 4 more squares from her bosom)

Washing faces of toddlers.

(She spits on T.P. and demonstrates on a pretend child)

Or fixing one's lipstick.

(Smears lipstick across her face from her lips)

There! That's much better.

(Rolls out about 4 more squares from her bosom)

Wiping away sweat from hot flashes ,or any kind of tears.

(Wipes her face, smearing the lipstick even more)

(Rolls out about 4 squares from her bosom)

Grabbin' those pesky spiders ya find crawling round where ya don't want to find 'em. Them spiders and TP flush down the toilet quite nicely together! Asta la viesta baby!

And you'll be a hero when the gals in the public bathroom find themselves out of paper. There you are, in their dire time of need. Just pass it to 'em under the bathroom stall and away they'll go!

(Takes out roll and throws it to the M.C.)

Those gals will be thanking ya. I tell ya, makes a woman feel real victorious indeed!

(Puts everything back in her bosom but can't find her glasses on the top of her head. She finally remembers they're on her head)

See what I mean?

(She puts on her glasses)

Okay, so what is walking in victory? As a teenager, I thought it was those feelings of ecstasy when Henry asked me out on our first date. Then again when I received my college diploma, then my job promotion, then marriage, then children, and retirement. The list never ended.

Right now a victory is remembering where I left my teeth! Such is life. So much happening, good and bad, all the time, in all sorts of ways. But there's three things that you'll never have victory over. Sorry to say it but you might as well know it right up front!

First off is diapers. First you're in diapers as a baby, then you babysit and change 'em, then you have your own babies. When you're kids are finally out of diapers your parents end up in them. Then, when you finally think you're done with diapers for good. You find you're back to wearing 'em yourself! Diapers never end.

Sleep's never going to happen either. Ya gotta get yourself up early to go to school, your job, your babies, pre-dawn kid activities and then they finally get their driver's license and you think, hallelujah!

(Raises hands)

No more late night chauffeuring. More Saturday mornings to sleep in.

(Slows down dreamily)

Ya climb into bed, all comfy cozy, pull the covers over your head, close your eyes,

(Closes eyes and pauses, then startles awake)

but ya can't sleep 'cause you find yourself worrin' bout them.

(Sighs, then comes out of her sidetrack)

You reach middle age and JUST when you hope a little more shut eye is possible...bam! Menopause strikes! Hot flashes, night sweats and numerous trips to the bathroom strike! Even at 92, due to my little daytime catnaps, I lay awake all night staring at the ceiling.

(Yawns)

Like I said. Sleep's never going to happen.

And last, but not least is that never ending "to do" list. Endless lists of homework, housework, errands, shopping, and meetings. That's why you need all the shoes, handbags, and T.P. in the first place!

I remember always thinking....after school starts things will slow down, then after Thanksgiving things will slow down, then after Christmas, after taxes, after Easter...all I can tell you is the "afters" never come! Fact is, it doesn't ever slow down. It just all goes by so fast!

Need some good news bout now? At my age, I don't care 'bout that blasted to do list. Mostly cause I can't find it anyway! Besides, my list is considerably shorter now since it takes me all morning just to get up, get dressed, and have breakfast!

Some people have a bucket list. You know, the list of things they want to do before walking out of this world, and through the pearly gates of heaven. Problem is that bucket gets filled up with things life adds to it. Things that you don't expect and you don't want.

Finances, health, friends, or family may fail you. Sometimes your bucket seems to runneth over. No controlling any of that. That's just how it is. Just keep walking. That's where the rubber on those new shoes of yours really meet the road!

Real victory, in this here life, is NOT about the accomplishments one achieves along the way, but in the process you walk, to reach those

accomplishments. Victory is walking, in His steps, one day at a time— living through it all, and in spite of it all.

(Pauses)

So if you find that perrfect pair of shoes...buy it in every color and keep on walking.

(Pauses again, then abruptly, matter of fact)

Well, that's all, that's it.

(She gets up, folds up her walker with the M.C.'s help and gets turned around. She bows with her bottom to the audience until the M.C. turns her back around to face the audience)

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Thelma dances, using slow side kicks while holding onto the walker as she exits to theme song, "Today Is Your Day" by Shania Twain.

The End

- Director Notes: Don't rush the lines. The audience needs time to catch the play on words to get the humor. Using a slow southern drawl will help. Also, be prepared to pause until the audience is done laughing or the next lines will be lost. Thelma can act confused or in her own world. She can also ad lib back to the audience. Example: "What's so funny? This is serious!"
- Thelma: 92 year old woman. Speaks with authority, a little bit crotchety but not crabby. Very matter of fact. Tell it like it is person.
- Costume: Gray wig, frumpy old dress, any color with polk a dots on it. Must have room to stuff all the props into her bosom and pull them out easily. Possibly sew in different pockets inside but some of the humor is in watching her fish for them.
- Props: Piece of paper, glasses, T.P., wallet, walker with built in seat, or regular walker and additional stool to sit on.
- Song: "Today Is Your Day" by Shania Twain