



Meet *Today's* newest powerhouse

Carole Radziwill talks female presidents, bloopers and Matt Lauer's hot bod with Meredith Vieira.

[Phone ringing...]

CAROLE RADZIWILL: Hello, Meredith, it's Carole.

MEREDITH VIEIRA: Hey, how are you?

CR: Good, but remember that great lunch we had last week? All our chemistry, the dishy gossip?

MV: Yes.

CR: Well, I forgot to push "record" on my tape recorder.

MV: [Laughs.] If that's your biggest screwup, you're doing OK. I'm the queen of screwups! I flubbed a line my first day on *Today*. I was supposed to say, "But first, this is *Today* on NBC." Instead I said, "But *Today* first on NBC." It's the show's trademark expression, and I totally screwed it up!

CR: OK, I feel better. So, from the top. You started your career in hard news. Did you ever think you'd go from that to hosting a show like *The View* for nine years?

MV: No, but I had reached the point where I didn't want to report anymore. I was at ABC and my show had been canceled, so I was essentially doing nothing and getting paid for it. That's when I got the call about *The View*. I found that I loved sitting around with a group of women and suddenly having a voice.

CR: When you left *The View*, were you worried about filling Katie Couric's Manolo Blahniks?

MV: Well, I wear a size 10 and I think she's a size 8, so I felt OK about it. [Laughs.] But I'm not trying to be Katie. You're destined to fail if you try to be something you're not.

CR: How do you keep track of all the outfits you have to wear on the show?

MV: If it were up to me, I'd wear the same thing every day! Matt, though, is such a little shopper. He can smell a sale a mile away. He's very stylish and looks great in clothes.

CR: I saw a picture of him on the beach and he looks pretty good without clothes too.

MV: [Laughs.] Well, I don't want to go there, but yes—he's got it all working.

CR: What's it like having a male cohost now?

MV: It's great, but it's an adjustment. There's a different intimacy with a guy. We get e-mails from viewers saying, "Do you two not like each other?" And others write that they can sense the sexual tension. *Hello!*

CR: So, 30 years ago you were criticized for leaving a job at 60 Minutes after you had your second child. Last year Elizabeth Vargas at ABC News was criticized for doing the same thing. Seems the more things change, the more they stay the same.

MV: It's true. Much has been made about Nancy Pelosi being the first female Speaker of the House and that Hillary Rodham Clinton, if she runs, could become the first female president. I think we are our own worst enemy when we attach significance to "first woman" this or that. It should be irrelevant whether you are a woman.

CR: One of the things you've had to deal with is that your husband, Richard Cohen, has multiple sclerosis. How have you and your kids handled that?

MV: Richard told me on our second date, and honestly, I didn't worry about it. I fell in love with the man. I wouldn't trade my situation for anything in the world.

CR: Is he considered legally blind now?

MV: Yes, but it's funny—he always manages to see the beautiful woman across the room!

CR: You've won seven Emmy Awards. Do you ever worry you'll only be remembered as the woman from that *Millionaire* show?

MV: [Laughs.] I hope I'm remembered as a good mom. ©

LUNCH DATA

WHERE: The Sea Grill, New York City

WHAT THEY ATE: Lattes and multiple mini muffins and croissants. (Meredith eats lunch at 11 A.M.)