



# She's ready for her comeback

Rosie O'Donnell's own talk show ended four years ago, but this fall the feisty, fabulous small-screen bigmouth becomes *The View*'s newest host. Carole Radziwill sat down with the talk show queen—and guess who asked the first question?

**ROSIE O'DONNELL:** So, do you have a boyfriend?

**CAROLE RADZIWILL:** No.

**RO:** Kind of?

**CR:** Well...

**RO:** But you're dating?

**CR:** Yes.

**RO:** I have a great guy for you.

**CR:** Wait a minute—this isn't *The View*. I get to ask the questions here! [Laughs.]

**RO:** So, do you want to start with it?

**CR:** With what?

**RO:** The Star Jones question.

**CR:** OK. What happened between you guys?

**RO:** I wrote about her weight loss on my blog and it pissed her off. At the time, I had no idea I would ever be working for *The View*. Kirstie Alley was mad at me too, because I talked about how, when she said her fattest was 201, I did a spit take on my Yoo-Hoo. But my life goal is not to ruin anyone's existence. I'm a comic. I really wish Star well.

**CR:** Are you looking forward to being one of four hosts, because you're so...

**RO:** Loud?

**CR:** No, no, no.

**RO:** [Laughs.] I kind of am, I know.

**CR:** I was going to say, um, *enthusiastic*.

**RO:** Well, it's going to be a challenge. I'm going to try really hard not to be bossy, but I've only done stand-up comedy and then my

own show where you're the total boss of everything!

**CR:** After taking time off, did you want to return to TV?

**RO:** I wanted to host *The Price Is Right* because there was talk Bob Barker might leave. I asked my agent to check it out. If I was on it, I would remove the golf game because I feel it's totally unfair. And I would have extra Plinko chips.

**CR:** Plinko chips?

**RO:** Yeah, Plinko is one of the games. You roll a hockey

puck thingy down a big board, and it lands on an amount of money. It's my favorite.

**CR:** Wow! You really know your game shows.

**RO:** I love *The Price Is Right*!

**CR:** A few years ago, you went public about your sexuality and later got a crazy boyish haircut. It caused a huge uproar. Are you going to cut your hair again?

**RO:** [Laughs.] I know, people were like, "It's all right that she's gay, but she doesn't have to *look* so gay." Trust me—I'm never cutting my hair again!

**CR:** Good. That's all we really care about.

**RO:** On *The View* it will be long and luxurious, not scary.

**CR:** So you and Kelli, your partner of eight years, got married in San Francisco in 2004, but the marriage was later ruled invalid. What's the difference between a civil union and marriage? Isn't it just semantics?

**RO:** No. "Marriage" is an internationally recognized word that says we are committed as a couple and are responsible for each other and any children that we have.

**CR:** I don't understand why people would spend so much energy debating whether gay people can marry.

**RO:** I understand. The issue scares people. It has religious connotations to many. But lots of atheists get married.

**CR:** And 40 years ago, interracial couples were illegal. Do you think 30 years from now we'll all be sitting here thinking, I can't believe this was ever an issue?

**RO:** I do. We live in America, a democracy.

**CR:** Did you ever think in your wildest dreams you'd be working with Barbara Walters?

**RO:** No! She's an icon, a feminist superhero. She's spoken to every world leader in the last 40 years.

**CR:** There was a rumor she had an affair with Fidel Castro!

**RO:** [Laughs.] Really? If it's true, I'm gonna get it out of her this year. I'll let you know.

**COMING NEXT MONTH:** Prince Andrew

## LUNCH DATA

**WHERE:** Joe Allen's, New York City

**WHAT THEY ATE:** Rosie had a chicken sandwich and a pint of Bass Ale. Carole ordered a steak (medium rare) with fries and a Diet Coke.