

Lucy pushes on an old-fashioned
roll-top desk.

LUCY BURNS

And so are yours. This desk belonged to Susan
B. Anthony.

(pause)

I know you hate sentiment.

ALICE PAUL

I love it. The desk. I love it. Thank you.

ENSEMBLE

WE ARE BUILDING THE FUTURE
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, WORK TO WORK
WE ARE BUILDING THE FUTURE
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, WORK TO WORK
THROUGH ANY HARDSHIP WE CAN SOLDIER
THAT IS OUR SPECIAL QUIRK
FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT,
FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT

Ida B. Wells (50) bursts in.

ALICE PAUL

Oh... welcome. I'm... it's... it's an honor.
You're Ida Wells.

IDA B. WELLS

And you're another stammering young white girl
I have to pretend has been doing this for more
than half a minute.

ALICE PAUL

Excuse me?

IDA B. WELLS

Apology accepted. I'm sure you were going to
reach out eventually, right? There's a parade.
The Alpha Suffrage Association will be
participating. We are THE black women's
suffrage club of Chicago, which means we are
THE black women's suffrage club of these United
States, and I think we should get all the
details clear before anyone gets confused.

ALICE PAUL

You heard about the parade?

IDA B. WELLS

The day before Wilson's. Yes. I move swiftly
and you should too. Is this Susan B. Anthony's
desk?

ALICE PAUL

It is.

IDA B. WELLS

Huh.

(beat)

I'm a student of history.

ALICE PAUL

I'd like to think of myself as a student of history too.

IDA B. WELLS

Then you know Ms. Anthony didn't always speak so highly of colored people.

ALICE PAUL

She accomplished quite a lot, considering the limits put on her generation. And the attitudes of the time.

IDA B. WELLS

"The attitudes of the time."

ALICE PAUL

Are we still talking about the parade?

IDA B. WELLS

I told you to keep up. Alpha marches with the full Illinois delegation. We won't be separated from the rest of our state. We ARE our state.

ALICE PAUL

Ummm... You're not the first group to ask about-

IDA B. WELLS

It's the first time I've asked.

ALICE PAUL

You won't be able to march with your states' delegations.

IDA B. WELLS

Is that right?

"#11 The Count"

ALICE PAUL

Washington D.C. is in the South. You as well as anyone should understand the danger this could pose to the march.

YOU KNOW THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT I HAVE TO BALANCE.

IDA B. WELLS

YOU HAVE TO BALANCE SO MUCH LESS THAN ME