

Odorous Challenge

There was a nose, the most celebrated of its time, whose human traveled from town to town meeting olfactory challenges presented by the townsfolk. In one town, the nose identified the field of grapes from which came a glass of chardonnay. In another it found a boy in a crowd, just from a strand of his hair. In a third, the village elder took the human into a barn, where the nose was confronted with a cacophony of odors "Aaaargh! What am I supposed to identify???" The elder responded, "We will let the cow decide." The cow was sickly, with milk leaking continuously from her udder, but even in this state, she was able to direct a stream of milk in any direction she chose. The townsfolk in the barn grew silent, anticipating what the cow might do. At last, she carefully squirted milk to the ground directly in front of the elder. It was in this way that he learned that a nose, by runny udder aim, would smell his feet.

