

**Quotations – a selection from Mike Buchanan, Justice for Men & Boys (<http://j4mb.org.uk>)**

**30 December, 2025**

Marriage, in life, is like a duel in the middle of a battle.  
**Edmond About**

Women like silent men. They think they're listening.  
**Marcel Achard**

What an absurd thing it is to pass over all the valuable parts of a man, and fix our attention on his infirmities.  
**Joseph Addison**

The truth which makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear.  
**Herbert Agar**

'Mrs Merton' to Debbie McGee: "But what first, Debbie, attracted you to millionaire Paul Daniels?"  
**Caroline Aherne**, *The Mrs Merton Show*

Sex without love is an empty experience, but as empty experiences go it's one of the best.

My wife was an immature woman... I would be home in the bathroom, taking a bath, and my wife would walk in whenever she felt like it and sink my boats.  
**Woody Allen**, 'I had a rough marriage'

If you can't annoy someone with what you write, I think there's little point in writing.

Alcestis had exercised a mysterious attraction and then an unmysterious repulsion on two former husbands, the second of whom had to resort to fatal coronary disease to get away from her.  
**Sir Kingsley Amis**

After a while marriage is a sibling relationship, marked by occasional, rather regrettable, episodes of incest.  
**Martin Amis**

A man's looks are measured by the depths of his pockets.  
**Elizabeth Aston**

To the man-in-the-street, who, I'm sorry to say  
Is a keen observer of life,  
The world 'intellectual' suggests right away  
A man who's untrue to his wife.  
**WH Auden**

A woman should never be trusted with money.  
*The Watsons* (unfinished novel started in 1803)

There is not one in a hundred of either sex who is not taken in when they marry. Look where I will, I see that it *is* so; and I feel that it *must* be so, when I consider that it is, of all transactions, the one in which people expect the most from others, and are least honest themselves.  
*Mansfield Park*

I think I may boast myself to be, with all possible vanity, the most unlearned and uninformed female who ever dared to be an authoress.  
*Letter*

Where so many hours have been spent in convincing myself that I am right, is there not some reason to fear I may be wrong?

**Jane Austen**

I mean, damn it all, one minute you're having a perfectly good time and the next, you suddenly see them there like – some old sports jacket or something – literally beginning to come apart at the seams.

*on women*

*Absurd Person Singular*

Whatever you do, keep clear of thin women. They're trouble.

*A Small Family Business*

**Alan Ayckbourn**

Spouses are impediments to great enterprises.

**Francis Bacon**

The majority of husbands remind me of an orangutan trying to play the violin.

The great pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.

*Prospective Review*

No man has ever yet discovered the way to give friendly advice to any woman, not even to his own wife.

*Petite misères de la vie conjugale*

Equality may perhaps be a right, but no power on earth can ever make it into a fact.

Marriage must incessantly contend with a monster that devours everything: familiarity.

No man should marry before he has studied anatomy and dissected the body of a woman.

**Honoré de Balzac**

Love is just a system for getting someone to call you darling after sex.

**Julian Barnes**, *Talking It Over*

Women complain about premenstrual syndrome, but I think of it as the only time of the month that I can be myself.

My husband complained to me. He said, "I can't remember when we last had sex." And I said, "Well, I can, and that's why we ain't doing it."

**Roseanne Barr**

I can win an argument on any topic, against any opponent. People know this, and steer clear of me at parties. Often, as a sign of their great respect, they don't even invite me.

**Dave Barry**

The way to fight a woman is with your hat. Grab it and run.

Love... the delightful interval between meeting a beautiful girl and discovering that she looks like a haddock.

**John Barrymore**

People keep asking me if I'll marry again. It's as if after you've had one car crash you want another.

**Stephanie Beacham**

My notion of a wife at forty is that a man should be able to change her, like a bank note, for two twenties.

**Warren Beatty**

It is not in giving life but in risking life that man is raised above the animal; that is why superiority has been accorded in humanity not to the sex that brings forth but to that which kills.

**Simone de Beauvoir**

I've a definite sense of spirituality. I want Brooklyn to be christened, but don't know into what religion yet.

**David Beckham**

What makes equality such a difficult business is that we only want it with our superiors.

**Henry Becque**

The big difference between sex for money and sex for free is that sex for money usually costs a lot less.

**Brendan Behan**

One of the few lessons I have learnt in life is that there is invariably something odd about women who wear ankle socks.

**Alan Bennett**, *The Old Country*

Never again! I can see no reason for marriage – ever at all. I've had it. Three times is enough.

**Ingrid Bergman**

It is better to marry than to burn.

*1 Corinthians 7:9*

[Author's note: True, but it's not much of a choice, is it?]

It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

*Proverbs 21:9*

A constant dripping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

*Proverbs 27:15*

**The Bible, Authorised Version**

Bride, n. A woman with a fine prospect of happiness behind her.

Convent, n. A place of retirement for women who wish for leisure to meditate upon the vice of idleness.

Female, n. One of the opposing, or unfair, sex.

Love, n. A temporary insanity cured by marriage.

Maiden, n. A young person of the unfair sex addicted to clewless conduct and views that madden to crime. The genus has a wide geographical distribution, being found wherever sought and deplored

wherever found. The maiden is not altogether unpleasing to the eye, nor (without her piano and her views) insupportable to the ear, though in respect to comeliness distinctly inferior to the rainbow, and, with regard to the part of her that is audible, beaten out of the field by the canary – which, also, is more portable.

Weaknesses, n.pl. Certain primal powers of Tyrant Woman wherewith she holds dominion over the male of her species, binding him to the service of her will and paralyzing his rebellious energies.

Witch, n. (1) Any ugly and repulsive old woman, in a wicked league with the devil. (2) A beautiful and attractive young woman, in wickedness a league beyond the devil.

**Ambrose Bierce**, *The Devil's Dictionary*

Women have no wilderness in them,  
They are provident instead,  
Content in the tight hot cell of their hearts  
To eat dusty bread.

**Louise Bogan**, *Women*

Humour is by far the most significant activity of the human brain.

**Edward De Bono**

When women are depressed, they eat or go shopping. Men invade another country. It's a whole different way of thinking.

**Elayne Boosler**

It is ridiculous to think you can spend your entire life with just one person. Three is about the right number. Yes, I imagine three husbands would do it.

**Clare Boothe Luce**

It is so far from being natural for a man and woman to live in a state of marriage, that we find all the motives which they have for remaining in that connection, and the restraints which civilised society imposes to prevent separation, are hardly sufficient to keep them together.

**James Boswell**, *Life of Samuel Johnson*

We are properly ready for marriage when we are strong enough to embrace a life of frustration.

**Alain de Botton**

All I can say about Gary Cooper is he's hung like a horse and can go all night.

**Clara Bow**

Love is an obsessive delusion that is cured by marriage.

**Dr Karl Bowman**

Marriage is the most advanced form of warfare in the modern world.

The whole point of marriage is to stop you getting anywhere near real life. You think it's a great struggle with the mystery of being. It's more like being smothered in warm cocoa. There's sex, but it's not what you think. Marvellous, for the first fortnight. Then every Wednesday. If there isn't a good late-night concert on the Third. Meanwhile you become a biological functionary. An agent of the great female womb, spawning away, dumping its goods in your lap for succour. Daddy, daddy, we're here, and we're expensive.

**Malcolm Bradbury**

People marry for a variety of reasons, and with varying results; but to marry for love is to invite inevitable tragedy.

**James Branch Cabell**

I love it when my period comes round. I can really be *myself* again.

My ex-boyfriend came round last night which was a bit weird, because I didn't even know he was in a coma.

**Jo Brand**

Sex is like pizza. Even when it's bad it's good.

**Mel Brooks**

My lesbianism is an act of Christian charity. All those women out there praying for a man, and I'm giving them my share.

**Rita Mae Brown**

It's a great life if you don't weaken.

**John Buchan**, *Mr Standfast*

Are some feminists (e.g. Tracey Emin) a pain in the Arts?

**Mike Buchanan**, chapter title in *Feminism: The Ugly Truth*

The academic community has in it the biggest concentration of alarmists, cranks, and extremists this side of the giggle house.

**William F Buckley Jr.**, "On the Right"

Sex, on the whole, was meant to be short, nasty and brutish. If what you want is cuddling, you should buy a puppy.

*Sex and Sensibility*

If Louisa May Alcott had really been sound, she's have written a trilogy, and called the last one *Divorced Lesbian Sluts*.

**Julie Burchill**

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

Happiness? A good cigar, a good meal, a good cigar and a good woman – or a bad woman; it depends on how much happiness you can handle.

**George Burns**

Home Sweet Home must surely have been written by a bachelor.

It was very good of God to let Carlyle and Mrs Carlyle marry one another and so make only two people miserable instead of four.

**Samuel Butler**

Love is much better when you are not married.

**Maria Callas**

What is a rebel? A man who says no.

**Albert Camus**, *The Rebel*

A wedding is a funeral where you smell your own flowers.

**Eddie Cantor**

Life's difficult enough without Meryl Streep movies.

**Truman Capote**

Just heard my Aunt has been diagnosed with dementia. Upsetting news, but on the bright side I suppose I should be grateful for the £50 I get for my birthday every week.

Text message to the author and others, 2009

A man walks into a shop selling Xmas trees and selects a six-feet-tall one. The shop assistant asks, 'Are you going to put it up yourself?' at which the man looks shocked and replies, 'No, you sick pervert, I'm going to put it up in the living room!'

Text message to the authors and others, 2009

It's only adultery if you get caught!

**Thunderin' Paul Carrington**, the star of Mike Buchanan's international bestseller *Two Men in a Car (a businessman, a chauffeur, and their holidays in France)*

I don't think my wife likes me very much. When I had a heart attack, she wrote for an ambulance.

You know what the difference is between a wife and a terrorist? You can negotiate with a terrorist.

**Frank Carson**

Married men live longer than single men. But married men are a lot more willing to die.

If variety is the spice of life, marriage is the big can of leftover Spam.

**Johnny Carson**

There is a time for all things – except marriage, my dear.

**Thomas Chatterton**

Cliff Clavin: How's married life treating ya? Quite a change, huh?

Frasier Crane: Well, Lilith and I did live together for a year before we wed, so other than the fact that I now see it stretching endlessly before me until I die rotting in the grave, there's no real difference.

**John Ratzenberger** and **Kelsey Grammar**, *Cheers*

The pleasure is momentary, the position ridiculous, and the expense damnable.

On sex

In matters of religion and matrimony I never give any advice; because I will not have anybody's torments in this world or the next laid to my charge.

**Lord Chesterfield**

Marriage is an adventure, like going to war.

In all legends men have thought of women as sublime separately but horrible in a herd.

**GK Chesterton**, 'What's Wrong With the World'

Many a man has fallen in love with a girl in a light so dim he would not have chosen a suit by it.

**Maurice Chevalier**

Lady Astor: Mr Churchill, you are drunk!

Winston Churchill: Yes, and you, Madam, are ugly. But tomorrow I shall be sober.

**Lady Astor**: If you were my husband, Winston, I'd put poison in your tea.

**Winston Churchill**: If you were my wife, Nancy, I'd drink it.

All you need to be married are champagne, a box of cigars, and a double bed.

One of the secrets of a happy marriage is never to speak to or see the loved one before noon.

**Sir Winston Churchill**

Oh, to be seventy again!

**Georges Clemenceau** on seeing a pretty girl on his eightieth birthday

Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote. The relative positions to be assumed by man and woman in the working out of our civilization were assigned long ago by a higher intelligence than ours.

**Grover Cleveland**

The most happy marriage I can imagine to myself would be the union of a deaf man to a blind woman.

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

Marriage is a wonderful invention: then again, so is a bicycle repair kit.

**Billy Connolly**

My wife and I were married in a toilet. It was a marriage of convenience.

**Tommy Cooper**

That married couples can live together day after day is a miracle the Vatican has overlooked.

**Bill Cosby**

Apparently bears are attracted to women in their menstrual cycles. A 1,000lb grizzly against a 120lb woman with cramps. I say fair fight.

**Simon Cotter**

You do not need to be loved, not at the cost of yourself. The single relationship that is truly central and crucial in a life is the relationship to the self.

**Jo Coudert**

I've sometimes thought of marrying, and then I've thought again.

Certain women should be struck regularly, like gongs.

*Private Lives*

If you'd been any prettier it would have been 'Florence of Arabia'.

to Peter O'Toole on *Laurence of Arabia*

I can take any amount of criticism, so long as it is unqualified praise.

My dear boy, forget about the motivation. Just say the lines and don't trip over the furniture.

advice to a theatre actor

For God's sake, go and tell that young man to take the Rockingham tea service out of his tights.

to choreographer about male dancer with unsightly bulge

The food was so abominable that I used to cross myself before taking a mouthful... I used to say, 'Ian, it tastes like armpits.'

of Ian Fleming's hospitality

She couldn't get a laugh if she pulled a kipper out of her cunt.

of an actress unable to elicit comedy from his lines

I don't see why not; everyone else has.

passing a Leicester Square movie poster which proclaimed 'Michael Redgrave and Dirk Bogarde in The Sea Shall Not Have Them'



Doesn't everyone?  
when asked why he drank champagne for breakfast

I was delighted to see that you thought I was as good as I thought I was.  
**Sir Noël Coward**

You've got to get married, haven't you? You can't go through life being happy.  
**Colin Crompton**

The strongest possible piece of advice I would give any young woman is: Don't screw around, and don't smoke.  
**Edwina Currie**

The first man to compare the cheeks of a young woman to a rose was obviously a poet; the first to repeat it was possibly an idiot.  
**Salvador Dali**, *Dialogues with Marcel Duchamp*

My wife and I were happy for 20 years. Then we met.

When it comes to sex, at my age I like threesomes. In case one of us dies.

We sleep in separate rooms, we have dinner apart, we take separate vacations – we're doing everything we can to keep our marriage together.  
**Rodney Dangerfield**

Many a promising career has been wrecked by marrying the wrong sort of woman.

Happiness is always a by-product. It is probably a matter of temperament, and for anything I know it may be glandular. But it is not something that can be demanded from life, and if you are not happy you had better stop worrying about it and see what treasures you can pluck from your own brand of unhappiness.

Many a promising career has been wrecked by marrying the wrong sort of woman. The right sort of woman can distinguish between Creative Lassitude and plain shiftlessness.  
**Robertson Davies**

There comes a time in every woman's life when the only thing that helps is a glass of champagne.  
**Bette Davis**

The first and great commandment is: Don't let them scare you. **Elmer Davis**

My wife is a sex object. Every time I ask for sex, she objects.

Last year my wife ran off with the fellow next door and I must admit, I still miss him.  
**Les Dawson**

I have long since come to believe that people never mean half of what they say, and that it is best to disregard their talk and judge only their actions.

**Dorothy Day**

A good psychic would pick up the phone before it rang. My psychic once said to me, 'God Bless you.' I said, 'I didn't sneeze.' She looked deep into my eyes and said, 'You will, eventually.' And damn it if she wasn't right. Two days later I sneezed.

**Ellen DeGeneres**

The difficulty with marriage is that we fall in love with a personality, but must live with a character.

**Peter Devries**

I have always thought that every woman should marry, and no man.

*Lothair*

It destroys one nerves to be amiable every day to the same human being.

**Benjamin Disraeli**

The feminist movement seems to have beaten the manners out of men, but I didn't see them put up a lot of resistance.

**Clarissa Theresa Philomena Aileen Mary Josephine Agnes Elsie Trilby Louise Esmerelda Dickson Wright**

Women's suffrage will, I believe, be the ruin of our Western civilisation. It will destroy the home, challenging the headship of men laid down by God. It may come in your time – I hope not in mine.

**John Dillon** c.1912

Girls bored me – they still do. I love Mickey Mouse more than any woman I've ever known.

**Walt Disney**

I've married a few people I shouldn't have, but haven't we all?

**Mamie van Doren**

Man is tormented by no greater anxiety than to find someone quickly to whom he can hand over that great gift of freedom with which the ill-fated creature is born.

**Fyodor Dostoevsky**, *The Brothers Karamazov*

Being single is pretty good. It's a nice sense of irresponsibility.

**Michael Douglas**

What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do.

I try my best to be just like I am,  
But everyone wants you to be just like them.

**Bob Dylan**, *Maggie's Farm*

Would you mind if I flew the Atlantic?

**Amelia Earhart**, American aviatrix to her husband George Putnam; George P Putnam, *Soaring Wings*

They say marriages are made in heaven, but so are thunder and lightning.

**Clint Eastwood**

Men marry women with the hope they will never change. Women marry men with the hope they will change. Invariably they are both disappointed.

**Albert Einstein**

Every man who is not a monster, mathematician or a mad philosopher, is the slave of some woman or other.

**George Eliot**, *Scenes of Clerical Life*

Many a man who falls in love with a dimple makes the mistake of marrying the whole girl.

**Evan Esar**

When a woman behaves like a man, why can't she behave like a *nice* man?

**Dame Edith Evans**

We were happily married for eight months. Unfortunately, we were married for four and a half years.

**Nick Faldo**

I listen to feminists and all these radical gals – most of them are failures. They've blown it. Some of them have married, but they married some Casper Milquetoast who asked permission to go to the bathroom. These women just need a man in the house. That's all they need. Most of the feminists need a man to tell them what time of day it is and to lead them home. And they blew it and they're mad at all men. Feminists hate men. They're sexist. They hate men – that's their problem.

**Jerry Falwell**

I will not sulk about having no boyfriend, but develop inner poise and authority and sense of self as woman of substance, complete *without* boyfriend, as best way to obtain boyfriend.

**Helen Fielding**, *Bridget Jones's Diary*

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit. No use being a damned fool about it.

I've never struck a woman in my life, not even my own mother.

I was in love with a beautiful blonde once. She drove me to drink. 'Tis the one thing I'm indebted to her for.

*Never Give a Sucker an Even Break*

It reminds me of an aardvark's ass.

of Jeanette Macdonald's face

Women are like elephants to me: nice to look at, but I wouldn't want to own one.

I believe in clubs for women, but only if every other form of persuasion fails.

**WC Fields**

Here's how men think. Sex, work – and those are reversible, depending on age – sex, work, food, sports and lastly, begrudgingly, relationships. And here's how women think. Relationships, relationships, relationships, work, sex, shopping, weight, food.

**Carrie Fisher**, *Surrender the Pink*

Getting married for sex is like buying a 747 for the free peanuts. **Jeff Foxworthy**

Emotion is a rotten base for politics.

**Dick Francis**

How strange. I usually get some sign that Lilith is in town: dogs forming into packs, blood weeping from the walls.

**Niles Crane (David Hyde Pierce)**, *Frasier*

The awe and dread with which the untutored savage contemplates his mother-in-law are amongst the most familiar facts of anthropology.

**Sir James Frazer**, *The Golden Bough*

'I hate discussions of feminism that end up with who does the dishes,' she said. So do I. But at the end, there are always the damned dishes.

**Marilyn French**, *The Women's Room*

Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar.

The great question that has never been answered and which I have never been able to answer, despite my 30 years of research into the feminine soul, is 'What does a woman want?'

**Sigmund Freud**

I support gay marriage. I believe they have a right to be as miserable as the rest of us.

**Kinky Friedman**

A society that puts equality – in the sense of equality of outcome – ahead of freedom will end up with neither equality nor freedom.

**Milton Friedman**, *Free to Choose*

I'll not listen to reason... Reason always means what someone else has got to say.

*Cranford*

Your wife and I didn't hit it off the only time I ever saw her. I won't say she was silly, but I think one of us was silly, and it wasn't me.

**Elizabeth Gaskell**, *Wives and Daughters*

If love means never having to say you're sorry, then marriage means always having to say everything twice.

**Estelle Getty**

By God, DH Lawrence was right when he said there must be a dumb, dark, dull bitter belly-tension between a man and a woman, and how else could this be achieved save in the long monotony of marriage?

**Stella Gibbons**, *Cold Comfort Farm*

Love is an ideal thing; marriage is a real thing. A confusion of the real with the ideal never goes unpunished.

**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

Women are frightening. If you get to forty as a man, you're quite battle-scarred.

**Hugh Grant**

Women say they want a man who know what a woman's worth. That's a pimp.

**Rich Hall**

The word 'politics' is derived from the word 'poly', meaning many, and 'ticks', meaning 'blood sucking parasites'.

**Larry Hardiman**

It is not worth an intelligent man's time to be in the majority. By definition, there are already enough people to do that.

**GH Hardy**

Marriage is like the witness protection programme; you get all new clothes, you live in the suburbs, and you're not allowed to see your friends anymore.

**Jeremy Hardy**

Loving is misery for women always. I shall never forgive God for making me a woman and dearly am I beginning to pay for the honour of owning a pretty face.

**Thomas Hardy**, Bathsheba Everdene in *Far From the Madding Crowd*

America is now given over to a damned mob of scribbling women.

**Nathaniel Hawthorne**

Pitt the Younger was a great British prime minister. He saved Europe from Napoleon, he was the pilot who weathered the storm. I don't know whether he'd have done it any better or quicker had he been married.

**Edward Heath**

A fair society is one in which some people fail – and they may fail in something other than precise, demographically representative proportions.

**William A Henry III**, *In Defence of Elitism*

Intellectuals should never marry; they won't enjoy it; and besides, they should not reproduce themselves.

**Don Herold**

When I think of talking, it is of course with a woman. For talking at its best being an inspiration, it wants a corresponding divine quality of receptiveness, and where will you find this but in a woman?

**Oliver Wendell Holmes**

An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come.

**Victor Hugo**

The Blues ain't nothin' but a good woman on your mind. **Mississippi John Hurt**

In a few years, no doubt, marriage licences will be sold like dog licences, good for 12 months.

**Aldous Huxley**, *Brave New World*

One almost begins to feel that the reason some women worked feverishly to get into men's clubs was to have a respite from the womanised world feminists have created.

**Carol Iannone**

The strongest man in the world is he who stands alone.

The majority never has right on its side. Never I say! That is one of the social lies that a free, thinking man is bound to rebel against. Who makes up the majority in any given country? Is it the wise men or the fools? I think we must agree that the fools are in a terrible overwhelming majority, all the wide world over. But, damn it, it can surely never be right that the stupid should rule over the clever!

**Henrik Ibsen**

What courage can withstand the ever-enduring and all-besetting terrors of a woman's tongue?

*Rip Van Winkle*

A woman's whole life is a history of the affections.

**Washington Irving**

Hogamous, Higamous,  
Man is polygamous.  
Higamous, Hogamous,  
Woman is monogamous.

**William James**, *Oxford Book of Marriage*

A second marriage is a triumph of hope over experience.

**Samuel Johnson**

Men and women. Women and men. It will never work.

**Erica Jong**

Only choose in marriage a woman whom you would choose as a friend if she were a man.

**Joseph Joubert**

Jesus was a bachelor and never lived with a woman. Surely living with a woman is one of the most difficult things a man has to do, and he never did it.

**James Joyce**

The only thing worse than a man you can't control is a man you can.

**Margo Kaufman**

I never knew what real happiness was until I got married. And by then it was too late.

**Max Kauffmann**

People do not like to think. If one thinks, one must reach conclusions. Conclusions are not always pleasant.

**Helen Keller**

Any woman who still thinks marriage is a fifty-fifty proposition is only proving that she doesn't understand either men or percentages.

**Florynce Kennedy**

I'm against gay marriage. I think marriage is a sacred union between a man and a pregnant woman.

**Craig Kilborn**

I love being married. I was single for a long time and I just got sick of finishing my own sentences.

**Brian Kiley**

A woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke.

**Rudyard Kipling**

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

**Martin Luther King Jr**

Every woman knows all about everything.

**Rudyard Kipling**, *The Eye of Allah*

Givers have to set limits because takers rarely do.

**Irma Kurtz**

The honeymoon is over when he phones to say he'll be late for supper and she's already left a note in the refrigerator.

**Bill Lawrence**

How beautiful maleness is, if it finds its right expression.

**DH Lawrence**

Not all women give most of their waking thoughts to the problem of pleasing men. Some are married.

**Emma Lee**

Why can't a woman be more like a man? Men are so honest, so thoroughly square; Eternally noble, historically fair.

**Alan Jay Lerner**, 'A Hymn to Him', *My Fair Lady*

Hillary Clinton said in her book it was a challenge to forgive Bill, but she figured if Nelson Mandela could forgive, she could give it a try. Isn't that amazing? I didn't know Clinton hit on Mandela's wife.

**Jay Leno**

Somewhere on this globe, every ten seconds, there is a woman giving birth to a child. She must be found and stopped.

**Sam Levenson**

She's the sort of woman who lives for others – you can always tell the others by their haunted expressions.

**CS Lewis**

Feminism is just a way for ugly women to get into the mainstream of America.

**Rush Limbaugh**

Earthly minds, like mud walls, resist the strongest batteries; and though, perhaps, sometimes the force of a clear argument may make some impression, yet they nevertheless stand firm, keep out the enemy, truth, that would captivate or disturb them.

**John Locke**

I define comfort as self-acceptance. When we finally learn that self-care begins and ends with ourselves, we no longer demand sustenance and happiness from others.

**Jennifer Louden**



Women do not find it difficult nowadays to behave like men, but they often find it extremely difficult to behave like gentlemen.

**Compton Mackenzie**, *Literature in My Time*

Poor is the man whose pleasures depend on the permission of another.

**Madonna**

There is no greater importance in all the world like knowing you are right and that the wave of the world is wrong, yet the wave crashes upon you.

**Norman Mailer**, *Armies Of The Night*

The human race progresses because and when the strongest human powers and the highest human faculties lead it... if all the ruling classes of today could be disposed of in a single massacre, and nobody left but those who at present call themselves the workers, these workers would be as helpless as a flock of shepherdless sheep.

**William Hurrell Mallock**

The sign of an intelligent people is their ability to control emotions by the application of reason.

**Marya Mannes**

I'm glad I'm not bisexual. I couldn't stand being rejected by men as well as by women.

**Bernard Manning**

It's just like magic. When you live by yourself, all your annoying habits are gone!

**Merrill Markoe**

I like a woman with a head on her shoulders. I hate necks.

I believe that sex is one of the most beautiful, natural, wholesome things that money can buy.

There is one thing I would break up over, and that is if she caught me with another woman. I won't stand for that.

**Steve Martin**

Politics doesn't make strange bedfellow – marriage does.

Given the choice between a woman and a cigar, I will always choose the cigar.

**Groucho Marx**

I never mind my wife having the last word. In fact, I'm delighted when she gets to it.

**Walter Matthau**

No married man's ever made up his mind until he's heard what his wife has got to say about it.

*Sheppey*

Dullness is the first requisite of a good husband.

*Lady Frederick*

A woman can forgive a man for the harm he does her, but she can never forgive him for the sacrifices he makes on her account. *The Moon and Sixpence*

One can be very much in love with a woman without wishing to spend the rest of one's life with her.

*The Painted Veil*

**W Somerset Maugham**

Wife: Mr Watt next door blows his wife a kiss every morning as he leaves the house. I wish you'd do that.

Husband: But I hardly know the woman!

**Alfred McFote**

I wanna be the leader

I wanna be the leader

Can I be the leader?

Can I? Can I?

Promise? Promise?

Yippee, I'm the leader

I'm the leader.

OK, what shall we do now?

**Roger McGough**, 'The Leader'

The human mind treats a new idea the same way the body treats a strange protein; it rejects it.

**Peter Medawar**

Bachelors know more about women than married men. If they didn't they'd be married, too.

The final test of truth is ridicule. Very few dogmas have ever faced it and survived.

*Damn! A Book of Calumny*

There is always a well-known solution to every human problem – neat, plausible, and wrong.

*Prejudices: Second Series*

An idealist is one who, on noticing that a rose smells better than a cabbage, concludes that it will also make better soup.

*Chrestomathy*

Misogynist: A man who hates women as much as women hate one another.

The worst government is often the most moral. One composed of cynics is often very tolerant and humane. But when fanatics are on top there is no limit to oppression.

*Minority Report*

One hears that the ‘women of the United States’ are up in arms about this or that; the plain fact is that eight fat women, meeting in a hotel parlor, have decided to kick up some dust.

No married man is genuinely happy if he has to drink worse whisky than he used to drink when he was single.

Every decent man is ashamed of the government he lives under.

The most common of all follies is to believe passionately in the palpably not true. It is the chief occupation of mankind.

**HL Mencken**

The only way to be truly misogynistic is to be a woman.

**Randy K Milholland**, *Something Positive*

Ask yourself if you are happy, and you cease to be so.

**John Stuart Mill**, *Autobiography*

Nobody can feel better than the man who is completely taken in. To be intelligent may be a boon, but to be completely trusting, gullible to the point of idiocy, to surrender without reservation, is one of the supreme joys of life.

**Henry Miller**, *Sexus (The Rosy Crucifixion)*

We were making love in the back of a truck and we got carried away.

**Spike Milligan**

Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.

**John Milton**, *Areopagitica*

I would like to be like my father and all the rest of my ancestors who never married.

If you're not happy single you won't be happy married, happiness comes from within not from women or men.

**Gugu Mofokeng**

Reading and marriage don't go well together.

*Les Femmes Savants*

**Molière**

I don't mind living in a man's world as long as I can be a woman in it.

Husbands are chiefly good as lovers when they are betraying their wives.

**Marilyn Monroe**

I have never had any great esteem for the generality of the fair sex, and my one consolation for being of that gender has been the assurance it gave me of never being married to anyone amongst them.

**Lady Mary Wortley Montagu**, letter to Mrs Calthorpe

A good marriage would be between a blind wife and a deaf husband.

A good marriage, if there is such a thing, rejects the company and conditions of love. It tries to imitate those of friendship.

**Michel de Montaigne**

Eric: She's a lovely girl... I'd like to marry her, but her family objects.

Ernie: Her family?

Eric: Yes, her husband and four kids.

**Eric Morecambe** and **Ernie Wise**

A man who has never made a woman angry is a failure in life.

**Christopher Morley**

I suppose true sexual equality will come when a general called Anthea is found having an unwise lunch with a young, unreliable model from Spain.

It's very slow. My favourite position is called 'The Plumber'. You stay in all day, but nobody comes.

**John Mortimer**, on Tantric sex

It has been said that a bride's attitude towards her betrothed can be summed up in three words. Aisle, Alter, Hymn.

**Frank Muir**

The cry of equality pulls everyone down.

One doesn't have to get anywhere in a marriage. It's not a public conveyance.

**Iris Murdoch**

Oxymoron is a literary device whereby two contradictory concepts are juxtaposed; as for example in 'the witty Jane Austen'.

**Patrick Murray**

Marriage is based on the theory that when a man discovers a brand of beer exactly to his taste he should at once throw up his job and go to work in a brewery.

**George John Nathan**

It is not a lack of love, but a lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriages.

If married couples did not live together, happy marriages would be more frequent.

At the beginning of a marriage ask yourself whether this woman will be interesting to talk to from now until old age. Everything else in marriage is transitory; most of the time is spent in conversation.

Insanity in individuals is something rare – but in groups, parties, nations and epochs, it is the rule. The irrationality of a thing is no argument against its existence, rather a condition of it.

**Friedrich Nietzsche**

If men were shouted down for being sexist when they used the word ‘postman’, then asking if there was any chance of a quick shag seemed like a bit of a non-starter.

**John O’Farrell**

Chris Finch was in an argument once and he went, ‘How can I hate women, my Mum’s one.’... Yeah? There’s a lot of truth in that.

David Brent (**Ricky Gervais**), *The Office*

There are a number of mechanical devices which increase sexual arousal, especially in women. Chief among these is the Mercedes-Benz 380SL convertible.

Staying married may have long-term benefits. You can elicit much more sympathy from friends over a bad marriage than you ever can from a good divorce.

**PJ O’Rourke**

We are slow to believe that which, if believed, would hurt our feelings.

**Ovid**

Oh, life is a glorious cycle of song,  
A medley of extemporanea;  
And love is a thing that can never go wrong –  
And I am Marie of Roumania.

*Not So Deep as a Well*

Woman lives but in her lord;  
Count to ten, and man is bored.  
With this the gist and sum of it,  
What earthly good can come of it?

*General Review of the Sex Situation*

I hate women. They get on my nerves.  
quoted in *Women’s Wicked Wit* ed. Michelle Lovric

**Dorothy Parker**

The secret to a long marriage is to stay gone.

**Dolly Parton**

He who does not bellow the truth when he knows the truth makes himself the accomplice of liars and forgers.

**Charles Péguy**, *Basic Verities*

Strange to say what delight we married people have to see these poor fools decoyed into our condition.

**Samuel Pepys**, *Diary*

Women: you can't live with them, and you can't get them to dress up in a skimpy Nazi uniform and beat you with a warm squash.

I discovered my wife in bed with another man, and I was crushed. So I said, 'Get off me, you too!'

**Emo Philips**

Love is a reciprocity of soul and has a different end and obeys different laws from marriage. Hence one should not take the loved one to wife.

**Alessandro Piccolomini**

I have no faith in human perfectibility. I think that human exertion will have no appreciable effect upon humanity. Man is now only more active – not more happy – nor more wise, than he was 6,000 years ago.

**Edgar Allan Poe**

Sometimes I'm charmed by the fact that there are women with whom you can discuss the theory of light all evening, and at the end they will ask you what is your birth sign.

**Roman Polanski**

There are three roads to ruin: women, gambling and technicians. The most pleasant is with women, the quickest is with gambling, but the surest is with technicians.

**Georges Pompidou**

Marriage is really tough because you have to deal with feelings and lawyers.

**Richard Pryor**

I didn't intend for this to take on a political tone. I'm here for the drugs.

**Nancy Reagan**, on being asked a political question at a 'Just Say No' rally

Marriage is about the most expensive way for the average man to get laundry done.

**Burt Reynolds**

There is not one female comic who was beautiful as a little girl. A man can sleep around, no questions asked, but if a woman makes nineteen or twenty mistakes she's a tramp.

My sex life has gone from bad to pathetic. My G spot stands for godforsaken.

**Joan Rivers**

Sex is like art. Most of it is pretty bad, and the good stuff is out of your price range.

There's only one problem with wife swapping. You get another wife.

**Scott Roeben**

There are two theories about arguing with women. Neither one works.

**Roy Rogers**

Most men who are not married by the age of thirty-five are either homosexual or smart.

**Becky Rodenbeck**

Passion and marriage are essentially irreconcilable. Their origins and their ends make them mutually exclusive. Their co-existence in our midst constantly raises insoluble problems, and the strife thereby engendered constitutes a persistent danger for every one of our social safeguards.

**Denis de Rougemont**

Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains.

To renounce liberty is to renounce being a man, to surrender the rights of humanity and even its duties. For he who renounces everything no indemnity is possible. Such a renunciation is incompatible with man's nature; to remove all liberty from his will is to remove all morality from his acts.

As soon as any man says of the affairs of the State, 'What does it matter to me?', the State may be given up for lost.

**Jean Jacques Rousseau**, *The Social Contract*

A husband is what is left of a lover, after the nerve is extracted.

*A Guide to Men*

In olden times sacrifices were made at the altar – a practice which is still continued.

It takes a woman twenty years to make a man of her son, and another woman twenty minutes to make a fool of him.

**Helen Rowland**

I love being married. It's so great to find that special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.

My boyfriend and I broke up. He wanted to get married and I didn't want him to.

**Rita Rudner**

One of the things a writer is for is to say the unsayable, speak the unspeakable and ask difficult questions.

**Salman Rushdie**

The greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to see something and tell what it saw in a plain way. Hundreds of people can talk for one who can think, but thousands can think for one who can see. To see clearly is poetry, prophecy and religion, all in one.

**John Ruskin**

In all affairs it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted.

The fact that an opinion has been widely held is no evidence whatever that it is not utterly absurd; indeed in view of the silliness of the majority of mankind, a widespread belief is more likely to be foolish than sensible.

*Sceptical essays*

**Bertrand Russell**

Marriage? It's like asparagus eaten with vinaigrette or hollandaise, a matter of taste but no importance.

**Françoise Sagan**

In our part of the world where monogamy is the rule, to marry means to halve one's rights and double one's duties.

**Arthur Schopenhauer**

A woman is simultaneously a victim and empowered, until something happens. Then she chooses which state benefits her the most.

**Schrödinger's Feminism**

Man is a clever animal who behaves like an imbecile.

**Albert Schweitzer**

Finally, in conclusion, let me say just this.

**Peter Sellers**

What does reason demand of a man? A very easy thing – to live in accord with his nature.

**Seneca**

What a piece of work is a man! how noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god!

**William Shakespeare, *Hamlet***

There is no subject on which more dangerous nonsense is talked and thought than marriage.

What God hath joined together no man shall put asunder: God will take care of that.

Changeable women are more endurable than monotonous ones. They are sometimes murdered but seldom deserted.



It is most unwise for people in love to marry.

The fickleness of the women I love is only equalled by the infernal constancy of the women who love me.

*The Philanderer*

The ideal love affair should be conducted by post.

When two people are under the influence of the most violent, most insane, and most transient of passions, they are required to swear that they will remain in that excited, abnormal, and exhausting condition until death do them part.

Preface to *The Doctor's Dilemma*

Those who talk most about the blessings of marriage and the constancy of its vows are the very ones who declare that if the chain were broken and the prisoners were left to choose, the whole social fabric would fly asunder. You can't have the argument both ways. If the prisoner is happy, why lock him in? If he isn't, why pretend that he is?

*Man and Superman*

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

*Man and Superman*, 'Maxims for Revolutionists'

Women upset everything. When you let them into your life, you find that the woman is driving at one thing and you're driving at another.

*Pygmalion*

Remember that you are a human being with a soul and the divine gift of articulate speech: that your native language is the language of Shakespeare and Milton and The Bible; and don't sit there crooning like a bilious pigeon.

Professor Higgins to Eliza Doolittle in *Pygmalion*

All great truths begin as blasphemies.

*Annajanska*

**George Bernard Shaw**

A system could not well have been devised more studiously hostile to human happiness than marriage.

**Percy Bysshe Shelley**, notes to 'Queen Mab'

Nothing anyone tells you about marriage helps.

**Max Siegel**

Take care of him. And make him feel important. And if you can do that, you'll have a happy and wonderful marriage. Like two out of every ten couples.

**Neil Simon**, *Barefoot in the Park*

Marge Simpson: Homer, is this how you pictured marriage?

Homer Simpson: Yeah, pretty much, except we drove around in a van and solved mysteries.

***The Simpsons***

I like American women. They do things sexually that Russian girls never dream of doing – like showering.

**Yakov Smirnoff**

For millions of years, we men have been able to get away with being useless fathers, doing nothing around the house, and being terrible in bed. Now we're expected to be brilliant at all those things. It's so unfair.

**Arthur Smith**

I'd like to get married because I like the idea of a man being required by law to sleep with me every night.

**Carrie Snow**

When you think of the long and gloomy history of man, you will find more hideous crimes have been committed in the name of obedience than have ever been committed in the name of rebellion.

**CP Snow**

Nobody likes the man who brings bad news.

Numberless are the world's wonders, but none more wonderful than man.

**Sophocles, *Antigone***

I am glad that I am not a man, for if I were I should have to marry a woman.

**Madame de Stael**

I've been involved in something which was chaotic and insane. All I can say now is that I am, and intend to stay, a single man.

**Sylvester Stallone**

Women: you can't live with them, you can't live without them. That's probably why you can rent one for the evening.

**Jim Stark**

To be intelligent is to be open-minded, active, memoried, and persistently experimental.

**Leopold Stein**

The most memorable is always the current one. The rest just merge into a sea of blondes.

I don't think I'll get married again. I'll just find a woman I don't like and give her a house.

**Rod Stewart**

Venus, a beautiful well-natured lady, was the goddess of love; Juno, a terrible shrew, the goddess of marriage: and they were always mortal enemies.

**Jonathan Swift**

I wouldn't recommend sex, drugs or insanity for everyone, but they've always worked for me.

**Hunter S Thompson**

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

*Conclusion*

How many a man has dated a new era in his life from the reading of a book.

**Henry Thoreau**

A woman's place is in the wrong.

**James Thurber**

Americans are so enamoured of equality that they would rather be equal in slavery than unequal in freedom.

On my arrival in the United States I was struck by the degree of ability among the governed and the lack of it among the governing.

**Alexis de Tocqueville**, *Democracy in America*

I personally think we developed language because of our deep need to complain.

If love is the answer, could you rephrase the question?

**Lily Tomlin**

There is no road to wealth so easy and respectable as that of matrimony.

*Doctor Thorne*

Men don't know women, or they would be harder to them.

**Anthony Trollope**, Lady Ongar in *The Claverlings*

*Pilgrim's Progress*: A book about a man who left his family. It doesn't say why.

The average man's a coward.

*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Noise proves nothing. Often a hen who has merely laid an egg cackles as if she had laid an asteroid.

To me Edgar Allen Poe's prose is unreadable – like Jane Austen's. No, there is a difference. I could read his prose on a salary, but not Jane's.

Jane Austen's books, too, are absent from the library. Just that one omission alone would make a fairly good library out of a library that hadn't a book in it.

It seems a great pity they allowed Jane Austen to die a natural death.

*Following the Equator*

Humanity has unquestionably one really effective weapon – laughter. Power, money, persuasion, supplication, persecution – these can lift at a colossal humbug – push it a little – weaken it a little, century by century; but only laughter can blow it to rags and atoms at a blast. Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand.

*The Mysterious Stranger*

**Mark Twain**

There are only two kinds of PG Wodehouse readers: those who adore him, and those who have never read him.

**Richard Usborne**

You can't bring logic into this. We're talking about marriage. Marriage is like the Middle East. There's no solution.

**Shirley Valentine-Bradshaw (Pauline Collins)**, *Shirley Valentine*

When once a woman has given you her heart, you can never get rid of the rest of her body.

**John Vanburgh**, *The Relapse*

I can understand companionship. I can understand bought sex in the afternoon. I cannot understand the love affair.

There is no human problem which could not be solved if people would simply do as I advise.

**Gore Vidal**

Take it from me, marriage isn't a word. It's a *sentence*.

**King Vidor**

Marriage is like putting your hand into a bag of snakes in the hope of pulling out an eel.

**Leonardo da Vinci**

Like so many Americans, she was trying to construct a life that made sense from things she found in gift shops.

**Kurt Vonnegut**, *Slaughterhouse-Five*

He is dreadfully married. He's the most married man I ever saw in my life.

**Artemus Ward**

Anyone could write a novel given six weeks, pen, paper, and no telephone or wife.

**Evelyn Waugh**

There are three intolerable things in life – cold coffee, lukewarm champagne, and overexcited women.

**Orson Welles**

Interviewer: Aren't you forgetting you're married?

Mae West: Hmmm – I'm doing my best.

Marriage is a great institution, but I'm not ready for an institution.

**Mae West**

There is nothing in the world like the devotion of a married woman. It is a thing no married man knows anything about.

One should always be in love. That is the reason one should never marry.

Rich bachelors should be heavily taxed. It is not fair that some men should be happier than others.

My dear boy, no woman is a genius. They are a decorative sex. They never have anything to say, but they say it charmingly. Women represent the triumph of matter over mind, just as men represent the triumph of mind over morals.

*The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Bigamy is having one wife too many. Monogamy is the same.

How marriage ruins a man! It is as demoralizing as cigarettes, and far more expensive.

A man can be happy with any woman as long as he does not love her.

Disobedience, in the eyes of anyone who has read history, is man's original virtue. It is through disobedience and rebellion that progress has been made.

'The Soul of Man Under Socialism'

**Oscar Wilde**

Unable obtain bidet. Suggest handstand in shower.

Cabled response to his wife's cabled complaint from Paris just after the Second World War, that her accommodation did not have a bidet, and could he arrange to have one sent to her?

**Billy Wilder**

Women: you can't live with them... end of sentence.

**Jack McFarland (Sean Hayes)**, *Will and Grace*

If you know somebody is going to be awfully annoyed by something you write, that's obviously very satisfying, and if they howl with rage or cry, that's honey.

**AN Wilson**

It was so cold, I almost got married.

In Hollywood, all the marriages are happy. It's trying to live together afterwards that causes all the problems.

**Shelley Winters**

To my daughter Leonora without whose never-failing sympathy and encouragement this book would have been finished in half the time.

Dedication in *The Heart of a Goof*

Chumps always make the best husbands. When you marry, Sally, grab a chump. Tap his forehead first, and if it rings solid, don't hesitate. All the unhappy marriages come from the husbands having brains.

*The Adventures of Sally*

It is never difficult to distinguish between a Scotsman with a grievance and a ray of sunshine.

*Blandings Castle and Elsewhere*

I was in rare fettle and the heart had touched a new high. I don't know anything that braces one up like finding you haven't got to get married after all.

*Jeeves in the Offing*

Rose was the sweetest girl in a world where sweet girls are rather rare, but experience had taught him that, given the right conditions, she was capable of making her presence felt as perceptibly as one of those hurricanes which become so emotional on reaching Cape Hatteras.

*Plum Pie*

**Sir Pelham Grenville ('PG') Wodehouse KBE**

He had been building one of those piles of thought, as ramshackle and fantastic as a Chinese pagoda, half from words let fall by gentlemen in gaiters, half from the litter in his own mind, about duck shooting and legal history, about the Roman occupation of Lincoln and the relations of country gentlemen with their wives, when, from all this disconnected rambling, there suddenly formed itself in his mind the idea that he would ask Mary to marry him.

**Virginia Woolf**

I have certainly seen more men destroyed by the desire to have a wife and child and to keep them in comfort than I have seen destroyed by drink or harlots.

**WB Yeats**

Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays.

The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret.

It's not true that married men live longer than single men. It only seems longer.

Do you know what it means to come home at night to a woman who'll give you a little love, a little affection, a little tenderness? It means you're in the wrong house, that's what it means.

**Henny Youngman**

For marriage to be a success, every woman and every man should have her and his own bathroom. End of.

**Catherine Zeta-Jones**

Many people spend more time in planning the wedding than planning the marriage.

**Zig Ziglar**

Quit now, you'll never make it. If you disregard this advice, you'll be halfway there.

**David Zucker**