

BEST QUOTES ON MARRIAGE

Marry your best friend. I do not say that lightly. Really, truly find the strongest, happiest friendship in the person you fall in love with. Someone who speaks highly of you. Someone you can laugh with. The kind of laughs that make your belly ache, and your nose snort. The embarrassing, earnest, healing kind of laughs. Wit is important. Life is too short not to love someone who lets you be a fool with them. Make sure they are somebody who lets you cry, too. Despair will come. Find someone that you want to be there with you through those times. Most importantly, marry the one that makes passion, love, and madness combine and course through you. A love that will never dilute—even when the waters get deep, and dark.

—N'tima Preusser

MARRIAGE BOX

Most people get married believing a myth that marriage is a beautiful box full of all the things they have longed for: companionship, intimacy, friendship etc. The truth is that marriage at the start is an empty box. You must put something in before you can take anything out. There is no love in marriage. Love is in people. And people put love in marriage. There is no romance in marriage. You have to infuse it into your marriage. A couple must learn the art and form the habit of giving, loving, serving, praising, of keeping the box full. If you take out more than you put in, the box will be empty.

—Unknown

The young man who wants to marry happily should pick out a good mother and marry one of her daughters—any one will do.

--J. Ogden Armour

As Anne-Marie puts it in her new book, *Unfinished Business*, 'This is the dirty little secret that women leaders who come together in places like Fortune magazine's annual Most Powerful Women Summit don't talk about: the necessity of a primary caregiver spouse.' A female business executive willing to do what it takes to get to the top—go on every trip, meet every client, accept every promotion, even pick up and move to a new location when asked—needs what male CEOs have always had: a spouse who bears most of the burden at home.

—Andrew Moravcsik

When I had told my mother that I was going to get married, she went to see my fiancée, and when the latter opened the door to her, my mother looked at her for a moment, although she had known her for quite a long time, as though she had an unfamiliar person in front of her....It was a silent communication....At that moment my mother gave up her place, and gave me up, too, to my wife. This was what my mother's expression said: he is no longer mine, he is yours. What silent injunctions, what sadness and what happiness, what fear and hope, what renunciation there was in this expression!

--Eugene Ionesco

In many pockets of 21st-century America, the idea of the wedding as something communal is anathema—a relic from a bygone era or the realm of the devoutly religious. Nuptials today are defined by your Pinterest board, of which there are a multiplying number of wedding-related ones, three-day destination extravaganzas, and \$200 spoons from Michael C. Fina. So, many American weddings have evolved into a fixation with material details, trials of abject devotion by members of the wedding party, and resigned acceptance of bridal crusades for perfection that threaten to crush all in their path. Because, well, you deserve it—it's your day.

--Hannah Seligson

There is no such thing as a traditional marriage. In various places and at various points in human history, marriage has been a means by which young children were betrothed, uniting royal houses and sealing alliances between nations. In the *Bible*, it was a union that sometimes took place between a man and his dead brother's widow, or between one man and several wives. It has been a vehicle for the orderly transfer of property from one generation of males to the next; the test by which children were deemed legitimate or bastard; a privilege not available to black Americans; something parents arranged for their adult children; a contract under which women, legally, ceased to exist. Well into the 19th century, the British common-law concept of 'unity of person' meant a woman became her husband when she married, giving up her legal standing and the right to own property or control her own wages.

--Liz Mundy

You marry the person who is available when you are most vulnerable.

--K. Berwick

When one thinks how many people there are that one does not in the least want to marry, and how many there are that do not in the least want to marry one, and how small one's social circle really is, any marriage at all seems a miracle.

--Barry Pain

All husbands are alike, but they have different faces so you can tell them apart.
--Ogden Nash

Remember, it is as easy to marry a rich woman as a poor woman.
--William Makepeace
Thackeray

Since marriage, which is a human institution invented for purely practical purposes, is so frail and so full of stumbling-blocks, how is it that so many marriages hold together? They do so because both partners have one interest in common, the thing for which nature has always intended marriage, namely children.
--August Strindberg

Husbands are like fires. They go out if unattended.
--Zsa Zsa Gabor

If they only married when they fell in love, most people would die unwed.
--Robert Louis Stevenson

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

Success in marriage does not come merely through finding the right mate, but through BEING the right mate.
--Barnett Brickner

Don't smother each other. No one can grow in the shade.
—Leo Buscaglia

Trouble is part of your life, and if you don't share it, you don't give the person who loves you a chance to love you enough.
—Dinah Shore

The most important career decision you're going to make is whether or not you have a life partner and who that partner is.
--Sheryl Sandberg

If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day so I never have to live without you.

--A. A. Milne

Marriage is an alliance entered into by a man who can't sleep with the window shut, and a woman who can't sleep with the window open.

—George Bernard Shaw

The women in my mother's generation had, in the main, only one decision to make about their lives: who they would marry. From that, so much else followed: where they would live, in what sort of conditions, whether they would be happy or sad or, so often, a bit of both. There were roles and there were rules.

--Anna Quindlen

My husband thinks I'm crazy...but I'm not the one who married me!

—Ged Backland

There about 26,250,000 arranged marriages annually worldwide. In India, 88.4% of marriages are arranged according to *statisticbrain.com*.

—Camille Shim

Chinese parents have long prized male heirs, and the one-child policy, recently abolished after 35 years, led many parents to abort female fetuses. According to one estimate, the country will by 2020 have at least 24 million 'surplus' men ages 20 to 45. With competition for brides fierce, plenty of young people approach marriage as a kind of business deal, and assess their partner's credentials accordingly. Men must typically bring a home and financial security (and in many cases a car) to the table; women are encouraged by their families to practice hypergamy—that is, to marry up. Marital rivalry has already caused rural 'bride prices' (essentially, reverse dowries paid to brides' parents) to surge; an extravagant proposal is now one more way for a prospective groom to enhance his desirability and status.

—Robert Foyle Hunwick

Two people who were once very close can without blame or grand betrayal become strangers. Perhaps this is the saddest thing in the world.

—Warsan Shire

One advantage of marriage, it seems to me, is that when you fall out of love with him, or he falls out of love with you, it keeps you together until you maybe fall in love again.

—Judith Viorst

Marriage is no longer the thing that kicks off a woman's adult life. As sociologists put it, marriage is now a capstone event instead. It's the thing you do when your life is in shape, when you have the right amount of money—and particularly in middle and lower-income communities, when you know you have the right partner, and in many cases, when you already have a kid. Marriage is popularly a sign that your life is in order, which contributes to this renewed positioning of marriage as aspirational.

—Rebecca Traister

A perfect marriage is just two imperfect people who refuse to give up on each other.

—Kate Stewart

How did you manage to stay together for so long? It's simple, really. We are from a time where if something is broken, we fix it. Not throw it away.

—*HappyWivesClub.com*

Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.

—H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Marriage is hard man. Marriage is so hard Nelson Mandela got a divorce. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in a South African prison getting tortured and beaten every day of his life for 27 straight years. He got out of jail, spent 6 months with his wife, and said, 'I can't take this shit!'

--Chris Rock

Women like me don't have a life. We choose clothes, and pay calls, and work for charity, and do the season, but really we're stuck in a waiting room until we marry.

--Lady Mary, Upper
Class Heroine of
Downton Abbey

Save marriage, ditch weddings. There has to be a better use of the many months and \$28,427 the average American couple spends on party planning.

--*The Atlantic*

The research shows that marriage is a predictor of greater well-being, social support, and financial stability; lower depression; and better physical health.

--Robert Nohr, Ph.D.

Gay marriage can function as a controlled experiment, helping us see which aspects of marital difficulty are truly rooted in gender and which are not. A growing body of social science has begun to compare straight and same-sex couples in an attempt to get at the question of what is female, what is male. Some of the findings are surprising. For instance: we know that heterosexual wives are more likely than husbands to initiate divorce. Social scientists have struggled to explain the discrepancy, variously attributing it to the sexual revolution; to women's financial independence; to men's failure to keep modern wives happy. Intriguingly, in Norway and Sweden, where registered partnerships for same-sex couples have been in place for about two decades (full-fledged marriage was introduced several years ago), research has found that lesbians are twice as likely as gay men to split up. If women become dissatisfied even when married to other women, maybe the problem with marriage isn't men. Maybe women are too particular. Maybe even women don't know what women want.

--Liza Mundy

On average, people who get married and stay married enjoy almost twice as much wealth as those who never marry. This economic shelter is probably one reason that married couples report being happier than single ones. But it's not the only one. Married people are healthier on average, and they live longer. They also report better mental health. And for all those people who say that they'd hate to get married and give up their terrific sex life, married people generally report having more sex and higher levels of satisfaction with their sex life. While people who marry earlier get less of an income boost, on average, they actually report being happier with their marriages than those who wait.

--Megan McArdle

Your 20s are not supposed to be for an 'MRS' degree or starting a family; they're for finishing your education and finding yourself. Marriage used to be the event that marked your passage into adulthood—the cornerstone of an adult life. Now it's the capstone, the last thing you do after all the other foundations are in place.

--Megan McArdle

The decline in marriage rates has been steepest for the least educated, especially men, and smallest for college graduates, especially women. College graduates, the highest earners, are more likely today to be married than are Americans with less education—69% for adults with a college degree versus 56% for those who are not a college graduate. That was not the case in 1970, when all education groups were about equally likely to wed.

--Catherine Rymer

Marriage is a state of extended girlhood.

--Joan Didion

A woman's flattery may inflate a man's head a little; but her criticism goes straight to his heart, and contracts it so that it can never again hold quite as much love for her.

--Helen Rowland

There is something unnatural about marriage. These two people are not going to be the same people in a few years. The trick is to live your own life while sharing the same space.

--Dustin Hoffman

When I eventually met Mr. Right I had no idea that his first name was Always.

--Rita Rudner

Wives are people who feel they don't dance enough.

--Groucho Marx

Let us now set forth one of the fundamental truths about marriage: the wife is in charge.

--Bill Cosby

Sometimes I wonder if men and women really suit each other. Perhaps they should live next door and just visit now and then.

--Katharine Hepburn

Before marriage, her power over a man is in her lips; after marriage, it's in her tongue.

--Unknown

So live that when a man says he's married to you, he'll be boasting.

--Unknown

Before marriage, he reacts to perfumes; after marriage, to cooking aromas.

—Evan Esar

Marriage is an eternal battle between the feminine love for interior decoration and the masculine love for comfort.

--Unknown

A good husband is merely a good son grown up.

—Evan Esar

Nora: Our house has never been anything but a playpen. I have been your doll wife, just as I was Daddy's doll child...

Torwald: First and foremost, you are a wife and mother.

Nora: I no longer believe that. I believe, first and foremost, that I am an individual, every bit as much as you are.

--Henrik Ibsen

That's the thing, the kids don't understand (about marriage)...It's not just a man. It's your house, your kids, your family, your time, everything. Everything in your life is who you marry.

--Anna Quindlen

Any marriage, happy or unhappy, is infinitely more interesting and significant than any romance, however passionate.

--W. H. Auden

The more a man knows, and the farther he travels, the more likely he is to marry a country girl.

—George Bernard Shaw

Do not rely completely on any other human being, however dear. We meet all life's greatest tests alone.

--Agnes Macphail

Marriage is the best state for man in general; and every man is a worse man in proportion as he is unfit for the married state.

--Samuel Johnson

There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.

--Martin Luther

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

--Joseph Joubert

An ideal wife is any woman who has an ideal husband.

--Booth Tarkington

Hysteria is a natural phenomenon, the common denominator of the female nature. It's the big female weapon, and the test of a man is his ability to cope with it.

--Tennessee Williams

In marriage do thou be wise: prefer the person before money, virtue before beauty, the mind before the body; then thou hast a wife, a friend, a companion, a second self.

--William Penn

Choose a wife rather by your ear than your eye.

--Thomas Fuller

He knows little who will tell his wife all he knows.

--Thomas Fuller

You can bear your own faults, and why not a fault in your wife?

--Benjamin Franklin

If you want peace in the house, do what your wife wants.

--African Proverb

When you look at men who don't marry, you're often looking at the bottom of the barrel. When you look at the women who don't marry, you're looking at the cream of the crop.

--Nancy Chodorow

The matter between husband and wife stands much the same as it does between two cocks in the same yard. The conqueror once is generally the conqueror for ever after. The prestige of victory is everything.

--Anthony Trollope

Marriage is our last, best chance to grow up.

--Joseph Barth

Bride: a woman with a fine prospect of happiness behind her.

--Ambrose Bierce

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

--Johann von Goethe

Marriage is a lottery, but you can't tear up your ticket if you lose.

--F. M. Knowles

The only really happy folk are married women and single men.

--H. L. Mencken

The most popular labor-saving device today is still a husband with money.

--Joey Adams

Better be quarreling than lonesome.

--Irish Proverb

Today, he admits, he gave his sons just one piece of advice.

'Never confuse I love you with I want to marry you.'

--Cleveland Armory

Often the difference between a successful marriage and a mediocre one consists of leaving about three or four things a day unsaid.

--Harlan Miller

Almost all married people fight, although many are ashamed to admit it. Actually a marriage in which no quarreling at all takes place may well be one that is dead or dying from emotional undernourishment. If you care, you probably fight.

--Flora Davis

A sound marriage is not based on complete frankness; it is based on a sensible reticence.

--Morris L. Ernst

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

--Oscar Wilde

Women marry because they don't want to work.

--Mary Garden

As to marriage or celibacy, let a man take which course he will, he will be sure to repent.

--Socrates

Male domination has had some very unfortunate effects. It has made the most intimate of human relations, that of marriage, one of master and slave, instead of one between equal partners.

--Bertrand Russell

Kissing don't last: cookery do.

--George Meredith

Of all modern notions, the worst is this: that domesticity is dull. Inside the home, they say, is dead decorum and routine; outside is adventure and variety. But the truth is that the home is the only place of liberty, the only spot on earth where a man can alter arrangements suddenly, make an experiment or indulge in a whim. The home is not the one tame place in a world of adventure; it is the one wild place in a world of rules and set tasks.

--G. K. Chesterton

Every marriage tends to consist of an aristocrat and a peasant, of a teacher and a learner.

--John Updike

Marriage is one long conversation checkered by disputes.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Only two things are necessary to keep one's wife happy. One is to let her think she is having her own way, and the other, to let her have it.

--Lyndon B. Johnson

A simple enough pleasure, surely, to have breakfast alone with one's husband, but how seldom married people in the midst of life achieve it.

--Ann Morrow Lindbergh

No man is regular in his attendance at the House of Commons until he is married.

--Benjamin Disraeli

If thee marries for money, thee surely will earn it.

--Ezra Bowen

Let there be spaces in your togetherness.

--Kahlil Gibran

Seldom, or perhaps never, does a marriage develop into an individual relationship smoothly and without crises; there is no coming to consciousness without pain.

--Carl Jung

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

--Honoré de Balzac

A woman is not a whole woman without the experience of marriage. In the case of a bad marriage, you win if you lose. Of the two alternatives—bad marriage or none—I believe bad marriage would be better. It is a bitter experience and a high price to pay for fulfillment, but it is the better alternative.

--Fannie Hurst

Men build bridges and throw railroads across deserts, and yet they contend successfully that the job of sewing on a button is beyond them. Accordingly, they don't have to sew buttons.

--Heywood Broun

American women expect to find in their husbands a perfection that English women only hope to find in their butlers.

--W. Somerset Maugham

Women have one great advantage over men. It is commonly thought that if they marry they have done enough, and need career no further. If a man marries, on the other hand, public opinion is all against him if he takes this view.

--Rose Macaulay

The double standard of morality will survive in this world so long as the woman whose husband has been lured away is favoured with the sympathetic tears of other women, and a man whose wife has made off is laughed at by other men.

--H. L. Mencken

Evil comes to us men of imagination wearing as its mask all the virtues. I have known, certainly, more men destroyed by the desire to have wife and child and to keep them in comfort than I have seen destroyed by harlots and drink.

--W. B. Yeats

It is hardly possible to estimate how many marriages fail to prosper or are actually ruined because the man lacks any inkling of the art of love.

--Count Hermann
Keyserling

Husbands who have the courage to be tender enjoy marriages that mellow through the years.

--Brendan Francis

A husband and wife ought to continue so long united as they love each other: any law which should bind them to cohabitation for one moment after the decay of their affection would be a most intolerable tyranny, and the most unworthy of toleration.

--Percy Bysshe Shelley

Married couples who love each other tell each other a thousand things without talking.

--Chinese Proverb

The only way to understand a woman is to love her—and then it isn't necessary to understand her.

--Sydney Harris

Man has his will—but woman has her way.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Mothers, at least American mothers, are a weird lot. Some sea-change seems to happen in a woman as soon as she becomes a mother. If she gives up enjoying sex with her boyfriend when she finally marries him and becomes a wife, she gives up even dreaming about it when she becomes a mother.

--James Jones

A marriage without conflicts is almost as inconceivable as a nation without crises.

--Andre Maurois

In a successful marriage, there is no such thing as one's way. There is only the way of both, only the bumpy, dusty, difficult, but always mutual path.

--Phyllis McGinley

Most married couples conduct themselves as if each party were afraid that the other one could see that it was the weaker.

--Alfred Adler

I see no marriages which sooner fail than those contracted on account of beauty and amorous desire.

—Michel de Montaigne

I think a man and a woman should choose each other for life, for the simple reason that a long life with all its accidents is barely enough for a man and a woman to understand each other; and in this case to understand is to love. The man who understands one woman is qualified to understand pretty well everything.

--W. B. Yeats

There's one consolation about matrimony. When you look around you can always see somebody who did worse.

--Warren H. Goldsmith

There is in marriage an energy and impulse of joy that lasts as long as life and that survives all sorts of suffering and distress and weariness. The triumph of marriage over all its antagonists is almost inexplicable.

--James Douglas

If you marry, you will regret it; if you do not marry, you will also regret it.

--Soren Kierkegaard

The 'institution' of marriage is just formalizing an emotion, an attempt to make it seem permanent. The emotion will last or it won't last; nothing can guarantee it. But as society becomes more and more unstable, as traditions break up, there will have to be a small unit of faithfulness, at least one person upon whom another person can depend, or society may disintegrate into madness.

--Joyce Carol Oates

It takes patience to appreciate domestic bliss; volatile spirits prefer unhappiness.

--George Santayana

Faults are thick where love is thin.

--Danish Proverb

Ultimately the bond of all companionship, whether in marriage or in friendship, is conversation.

--Oscar Wilde

I think that most of the beauty of women evaporates when they achieve domestic happiness at the price of their independence.

--Cyril Connolly

The worst reconciliation is better than the best divorce.

--Cervantes

I can think of nothing marriage could give me, but I can think of many things it could take away from me.

--George Jean Nathan

Man was formed for society, and is neither capable of living alone, nor has the courage to do it.

--Sir William Blackstone

There is monotony in the affections, which people living together or, as we do now, very frequently seeing each other, are apt to give in to: a sort of indifference in the expression of kindness for each other, which demands that we should sometimes call to our aid the trickery of surprise.

--Charles Lamb

Women are the cowards they are because they have been semi-slaves for so long. The number of women prepared to stand up for what they really think, feel, experience with a man they are in love with is still very small.

--Doris Lessing

The difference between being unhappily single and unhappily married is that, in the first case, one phone call can turn it around. The other takes a lot more work.

--Sally Jackson

Any man today who returns from work, sinks into a chair, and calls for his pipe is a man with an appetite for danger.

--Bill Cosby

I feel about marriage the way some people feel about cabbage, or like I feel about milk. It's a good product, but it ain't good for everybody.

--Ray Charles

If Americans can be divorced for 'incompatibility,' I cannot conceive why they are not all divorced. I have known many happy marriages, but never a compatible one. The whole aim of marriage is to fight through and survive the instant when incompatibility becomes unquestionable.

--G. K. Chesterton

Marriage turns talented men into husbands and talented women into wives.
--Sybille Pearson

Men are better companions before their success than after it, for they have so much more leisure.
--George Gissing

Women are at last becoming persons first and wives second, and that is as it should be.
--May Sarton

The happy married man dies in good stile at home, surrounded by his weeping wife and children. The old bachelor don't die at all—he sort of rots away, like a polly-wog's tail.
--Artemus Ward

Those marriages generally abound most with love and constancy that are preceded by a long courtship. The passion should strike root and gather strength before marriage be grafted on it.
--Joseph Addison

What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
--*Matthew* 19:6

A man's home is his wife's castle.
--Alexander Chase

One of the main conveniences of marriage is to be able to pass a visitor whom one can't stand along to one's wife.
--Georg Christoph
Lichtenberg

When a man steals your wife, there is no better revenge than to let him keep her.
--Sacha Guitry

Agreement is never reached in love. The life of a wife and husband who love each other is never at rest. Whether the marriage is true or false, the marriage portion is the same: elemental discord.
--Jean Giraudoux

Wives are young men's mistresses, companions for middle age, and old men's nurses.

--Francis Bacon

A long association—prolonged human contact, when a man and woman live together—this ends up producing a sort of rot, a poison.

--Ugo Betti

In matrimony, to hesitate is sometimes to be saved.

--Samuel Butler

Show me one couple unhappy merely on account of their limited circumstances, and I will show you ten who are wretched from other causes.

--Samuel Taylor
Coleridge

Marriage is a feast where the grace is sometimes better than the dinner.

--Charles Caleb Colton

The dread of loneliness is greater than the fear of bondage, so we get married.

--Cyril Connolly

The chains of marriage are so heavy that it takes two to bear them, sometimes three.

--Alexandre Dumas

Manny a man that cud rule a hunderd millyon sthrangers with an ir'n hand is care-ful to take off his shoes in th' front hallway whin he comes home late at night.

--Finley Peter Dunne

Wedlock, a padlock.

--English Proverb

Man's best possession is a sympathetic wife.

--Euripides

A man's best fortune, or his worst, is his wife.

--Thomas Fuller

More belongs to marriage than four legs in a bed.

--Thomas Fuller

Marriage is the only evil that men pray for.

--Greek Proverb

Maidens! why should you worry in choosing whom you shall marry?
Choose whom you may, you will find you have got somebody else.

--John Hay

For every quarrel a man and wife have before others, they have a hundred when alone.

--Edgar Watson Howe

Marriage is a good deal like a circus: there is not as much in it as is represented in the advertising.

--Edgar Watson Howe

A man who marries a woman to educate her falls a victim to the same fallacy as the woman who marries a man to reform him.

--Elbert Hubbard

No man knows what the wife of his bosom is until he has gone with her through the fiery trials of this world.

--Washington Irving

Always see a fellow's weak point in his wife.

--James Joyce

There are some good marriages, but no delightful ones.

--La Rochefoucauld

There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.

--Martin Luther

Marriage is a lot of things—an alliance, a sacrament, a comedy, or a mistake; but it is definitely not a partnership because that implies equal gain. And every right-thinking woman knows the profit in matrimony is by all odds hers.

--Phyllis McGinley

The fundamental trouble with marriage is that it shakes a man's confidence in himself, and so greatly diminishes his general competence and effectiveness. His habit of mind becomes that of a commander who has lost a decisive and calamitous battle. He never quite trusts himself thereafter.

--H. L. Mencken

When marrying, one should ask oneself this question: Do you believe that you will be able to converse well with this woman into your old age?

--Friedrich Wilhelm
Nietzsche

Man is for woman a means: the end is always the child.

--Friedrich Wilhelm
Nietzsche

Marriage is tolerable enough in its way if you're easygoing and don't expect too much from it. But it doesn't bear thinking about.

--George Bernard Shaw

Marriage resembles a pair of shears, so joined that they cannot be separated; often moving in opposite directions, yet always punishing anyone who comes between them.

--Sydney Smith

Woe to the house where the hen crows and the rooster keeps still.

--Spanish Proverb

The married state, with and without the affection suitable to it, is the compleatest image of heaven and hell we are capable of receiving in this life.

--Richard Steele

We study ourselves three weeks, we love each other three months, we squabble three years, we tolerate each other thirty years, and then the children start all over again.

--Hippolyte Taine

The one charm of marriage is that it makes a life of deception absolutely necessary for both parties.

--Oscar Wilde

Men marry because they are tired; women because they are curious.
Both are disappointed.

--Oscar Wilde

Women speak because they wish to speak, whereas a man speaks only when driven to speech by something outside himself—like, for instance, he can't find any clean socks.

--Jean Kerr

Woman wants monogamy;
Man delights in novelty.

--Dorothy Parker

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.

--George Bernard Shaw

Marriage is an exercise in torture.

—Frances Conroy

Never go to bed mad. Stay up and fight.

--Phyllis Diller

Remember, that if thou marry for beauty, thou bindest thyself all thy life for that which perchance will neither last nor please thee one year; and when thou hast it, it will be to thee of no price at all; for the desire dieth when it is attained, and the affection perisheth when it is satisfied.

--Sir Walter Raleigh

There is nothing worse than solitude, growing old without a shoulder to lean on.
Marry, marry—even if he's fat and boring!

--Coco Chanel

Love is the dawn of marriage, and marriage is the sunset of love.

--French Proverb

Marriage is something you have to give your whole mind to.

--Henrik Johan Ibsen

The moment a woman marries, some terrible revolution happens in her system; all her good qualities vanish, presto, like eggs out of a conjuror's box. 'Tis true that they appear on the other side of the box, but for the husband they are gone forever.

—Henry Lytton-Bulwer

Women, deceived by men, want to marry them! It is a kind of revenge as good as any other.

--Beaumanoir

Men do not know their wives well; but wives know their husbands perfectly.

--Raoul Auger Feuillet

So heavy is the chain of wedlock that it needs two to carry it—and sometimes three.

--Alexander Dumas

Marriage is like a phone call in the night: first the ring, and then you wake up.

—Evelyn Hendrickson

The days just prior to marriage are like a snappy introduction to a tedious book.

--Wilson Mizner

Marriage is a state of antagonistic cooperation.

--Jerome H. Blass

Some pray to marry the man they love,
My prayer will somewhat vary:
I humbly pray to Heaven above
That I love the man I marry.

--Rose P. Stokes

A good many things are easier said than done—including the marriage ritual.

--Evan Esar

Being a husband is a whole-time job. That is why so many husbands fail. They cannot give their entire attention to it.

--Arnold Bennett

A good husband makes a good wife.

--John Florio

A wife is to thank God her husband hath faults....A husband without faults is a dangerous observer.

--Lord Halifax

Better to be married than dead!

--Moliere

Marrying a stupid woman will prevent you from looking stupid.

--Moliere

A sudden fit of despair will often give rise to a marriage that will be repented for the rest of one's life.

--Moliere

Marriage has many pains, but celibacy has no pleasures.

--Samuel Johnson

Where there's marriage without love, there will be love without marriage.

--Benjamin Franklin

Oh, how many torments lie in the small circle of a wedding ring!

--Colley Cibber

No man worth having is true to his wife, or can be true to his wife, or ever was, or ever will be so.

--Sir John Vanbrugh

Deceive not thyself by over expecting happiness in the married estate. Remember the nightingales which sing only some months in the spring, but commonly are silent when they have hatched their eggs.

--Thomas Fuller

He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief.

--Sir Francis Bacon

Another reason for unhappy marriages is that men can't fool their wives like they could their mothers.

--Unknown

Married in haste, we may repent at leisure.

--William Congreve

Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning handsprings, or eating with chopsticks. It looks easy till you try it.

--Helen Rowland

A kiss is what a husband struggled for before marriage and what his wife struggles for after marriage.

--Unknown

There would be fewer divorces if men gave as much loving attention to their wives as they do to their cars, boats, and dogs.

--Unknown

Before criticizing your wife's faults, you must remember it may have been those very defects which prevented her from getting a better husband than the one she married.

--Unknown

When a man decides to marry, it may be the last decision he'll ever be allowed to make.

--Unknown

The woman who complains about the man she married should realize that she could have caught a bigger fish if she had used better bait.

--Unknown

A wife's advice is of little value, but he who does not take it is a fool.

--Spanish Proverb

The sum which two married people owe to one another defies calculation. It is an infinite debt, which can only be discharged through all eternity.

--Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

To marry is to halve your rights and double your duties.

--Arthur Schopenhauer

Is not marriage an open question, when it is alleged, from the beginning of the world, that such as are in the institution wish to get out, and such as are out wish to get in?

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Marriage, to women as to men, must be a luxury, not a necessity; an incident of life, not all of it. And the only possible way to accomplish this great change is to accord to women equal power in the making, shaping and controlling of the circumstances of life.

--Susan Brownell
Anthony

In the choice of a horse and a wife, a man must please himself, ignoring the opinion and advice of friends.

--George John
Whyte-Melville

The fundamental error of their matrimonial union; that of having based a permanent contract on a temporary feeling.

--Thomas Hardy

Marriage, n. a community consisting of a master, a mistress, and two slaves, making in all, two.

--Ambrose Bierce

Marriage is like life in this—that it is a field of battle, and not a bed of roses.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Times are changed with him who marries; there are no more bypath meadows, where you may innocently linger, but the road lies long and straight and dusty to the grave.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Marry Ann; and at the end of a week you'll find no more inspiration in her than in a plate of muffins.

--George Bernard Shaw

The psychology of adultery has been falsified by conventional morals, which assume, in monogamous countries, that attraction to one person cannot coexist with a serious affection for another. Everybody knows that this is untrue.

--Bertrand Russell

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

--George Bernard Shaw

Courtship is to marriage, as a very witty prologue to a very dull play.

--William Congreve

The better the workman, the worse husband.

--Thomas Draxe

The calmest husbands make the stormiest wives.

--Thomas Dekker

Every intelligent woman knows instinctively that the highest aspirations of her husband are fundamentally inimical to her, and that their realization is apt to cost her her possession of him.

--H. L. Mencken

I see no marriages fail sooner, or more troubled, than such as are concluded for beauty's sake, and huddled up for amorous desires.

—Michel de Montaigne

Love is often a fruit of marriage.

--Moliere

There may be good, but there are no pleasant marriages.

--La Rochefoucauld

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

--George Bernard Shaw

Marriage, to tell the truth, is an evil, but it is a necessary evil.

--Menander

I believe it will be found that those who marry late are best pleased with their children, and those who marry early with their partners.

--Samuel Johnson

It doesn't much signify whom one marries, for one is sure to find next morning that it was someone else.

--Samuel Rogers

The best works, and of greatest merit for the public, have proceeded from the unmarried or childless men.

--Francis Bacon

I believe marriages would in general be as happy, and often more so, if they were all made by the Lord Chancellor, upon a due consideration of the characters and circumstances, without the parties having any choice in the matter.

--Samuel Johnson

Marriage may be compared to a cage: the birds outside despair to get in and those within despair to get out.

—Michel de Montaigne

All are good maids, but whence come the bad wives?

--English Proverb

If men knew how women pass the time when they are alone, they'd never marry.

--O. Henry

Marriage! Nothing else demands so much from a man!

--Henrik Ibsen

Marriage is not a union merely between two creatures—it is a union between two spirits; and the intention of that bond is to perfect the nature of both, by supplementing their deficiencies with the force of contrast, giving to each sex those excellencies in which it is naturally deficient; to the one, strength of character and firmness of moral will; to the other, sympathy, meekness, tenderness.

--F. W. Robertson

Of all the actions of a man's life, his marriage does least concern other people, yet of all actions of our life, 'tis most meddled with by other people.

--Selden

Marriages are best made of dissimilar material.

--Theodore Parker

The happiness of married life depends upon making small sacrifices with readiness and cheerfulness.

--Selden

When a man and woman are married, their romance ceases and their history commences.

--Abbé de Rochebrune

The husband who wants a happy marriage should learn to keep his mouth shut and his checkbook open.

--Groucho Marx

Familiarity breeds contempt—and children.

--Mark Twain

A man likes his wife to be just clever enough to appreciate his cleverness, and just stupid enough to admire it.

--Israel Zangwill

The only good husbands stay bachelors: They're too considerate to get married.

--Finley Peter Dunne

Bachelors have consciences; married men have wives.

--H. L. Mencken

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

--H. L. Mencken

I would be married, but I'd have no wife,
I would be married to a single life.

--Richard Crashaw

A single man has not nearly the value he would have in a state of union. He is an incomplete animal. He resembles the odd half of a pair of scissors.

--Benjamin Franklin

I spend a few hours by my wife's grave today. She thinks I'm digging a pond.

—*theChive*

There is so little difference between husbands you might as well keep the first.
--Adela Rogers St. John

Many a man in love with a dimple makes the mistake of marrying the whole girl.
--Stephen Leacock

Before you marry keep both eyes open; after marriage shut one.
--Jamaican Proverb

Changing husbands is only changing troubles.
--Kathleen Norris

The person who marries for money usually earns every penny of it.
--Unknown

No one can constantly sleep with his wife and take heartfelt pleasure in it.
--Nicharchus

A wife is a burden imposed by law, and should be loved like one's fortune. But I do not wish to love even my fortune forever.
--Petronius

I fear that in the election of a wife
As in a project of war, to err but once
Is to be undone for ever.
--Thomas Middleton

Who will have a handsome wife, let him choose her upon Saturday,
and not upon Sunday, when she is in her fine clothes.
--James Howell

The better the man, the more desirable as a husband, the less good will he get out of his wife.
--Juvenal

If you wanna be happy for the rest o' your life,
Never make a pretty woman your wife.
And from my personal point of view,
Get an ugly girl to marry you.
--Jimmy Soul

They that marry ancient people, merely in expectation to bury them, hang themselves, in hope that one will come and cut the halter.

--Thomas Fuller

Marriage may often be a stormy lake, but celibacy is almost always a muddy horsepond.

--T. L. Peacock

Celibate, like the fly in the heart of an apple, dwells in a perpetual sweetness, but sits alone, and is confined and dies in singularity.

--Jeremy Taylor

Mind, not body, makes marriage lasting.

--Publilius Syrus

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

--Oscar Wilde

There are but two objects in marriage, love or money. If you marry for love, you will certainly have some very happy days, and probably many very uneasy ones; if for money, you will have no happy days and probably no uneasy ones.

--Lord Chesterfield

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

--J. B. Cabell

If a man really loves a woman, of course he wouldn't marry her for the world if he were not quite sure that he was the best person she could by any possibility marry.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

It is the part of the one to be active and strong, and of the other to be passive and weak. Accept this principle and it follows in the second place that woman is intended to please man. If the man requires to please the woman in turn the necessity is less direct. Masterfulness is his special attribute. He pleases by the very fact that he is strong. This is not the law of love, I admit. But it is the law of nature, which is more ancient than love.

--Jean Jacques Rousseau

One good husband is worth two good wives; for the scarcer things are, the more they're valued.

--Benjamin Franklin

Men have a much better time of it than women; for one thing, they marry later; for another thing, they die earlier.

--H. L. Mencken

It is more noble to give yourself completely to one individual than to labor diligently for the salvation of the masses.

--Dag Hammarskjöld

In the sex-war, thoughtlessness is a weapon of the male, vindictiveness of the female. Both are reciprocally generated, but a woman's desire for revenge outlasts all other emotion. Yet when every unkind word about women has been said, we have still to admit, with Byron, that they are nicer than men. They are more devoted, more unselfish and more emotionally sincere. When the long fuse of cruelty, deceit and revenge is set alight, it is male thoughtlessness which has fired it.

--Cyril Connolly

No mother-in-law ever remembers that she was once a daughter-in-law.

—Unknown

No woman marries for money; they are all clever enough, before marrying a millionaire, to fall in love with him first.

--Cesare Pavese

There is probably nothing like living together for blinding people to each other.

--Ivy Compton-Burnett

Nothing flatters a man as much as the happiness of his wife; he is always proud of himself as the source of it.

--Samuel Johnson

Marriage: a job. Happiness or unhappiness has nothing to do with it.

--Kathleen Norris

Love is a fever which marriage puts to bed and cures.

--Richard J. Needham

I never married because I have three pets at home that answer the same purpose as a husband. I have a dog that growls every morning, a parrot that swears all afternoon, and a cat that comes home late at night.

--Marie Corelli

One of the best things about marriage is that it gets young people to bed at a decent hour.

--M. M. Musselman

One was never married, and that's his hell; another is, and that's his plague.

--Robert Burton

Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards.

--Benjamin Franklin

I believe it will be found that those who marry late are best pleased with their children, and those who marry early with their partners.

--Samuel Johnson

In the ideal marriage one partner is blind and the other deaf.

—Michel de Montaigne

You never can tell about a marriage from the outside. Some couples hold hands because they're afraid that if they let go they'd kill each other.

--Unknown

A man might like the abstract idea of marriage, but he doesn't want the aggravation of having a real live wife. He wants the convenience of a home and hearth without wanting the emotional responsibility of its upkeep. It's like wanting to eat a great meal without cooking or cleaning up, or wanting to be a great musician without practicing. Sure, as a fantasy it's terrific. As a plan for life, it's a disaster.

--Regina Barreca

For any woman to succeed in American life she must first do two things: Prepare herself for a profession, and marry a man who wants her to succeed as much as he does.

--Cathleen Douglas

Throughout history, females have picked providers for mates. Males pick anything.

--Margaret Mead

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

--Shelley Winters

An archaeologist is the best husband any woman can have: the older she gets the more interested he is in her.

--Agatha Christie

For some reason, it seems that the bride generally has to make more effort to achieve a successful marriage than the bridegroom.

--Elizabeth Post

Men often marry their mothers.

--Edna Ferber

The only time a woman really succeeds in changing a man is when he's a baby.

--Natalie Wood

Why does a woman work ten years to change a man's habits and then complain that he's not the man she married?

--Barbra Streisand

American women are good mothers, but they make poor wives.

--Margaret Mead

A wife, so often, is her mother.

--Gail Sheehy

Love in marriage is commitment. Commitment involves a woman's full surrender to her man.

--Marabel Morgan

By the act of marriage you endorse all the ancient and dead values. You endorse things like monogamy. Lifelong monogamy is a maniacal idea.

--Germaine Greer

To catch a husband is an art; to hold him is a job.

--Simone de Beauvoir

Marriage is the best magician there is. In front of your eyes, it can change an exciting cute little dish into a boring dishwasher.

--Ryan O'Neal

The best of all possible marriages is a seesaw in which first one, then the other partner is dominant.

--Dr. Joyce Brothers

Marriage is the alliance of two people, one of whom never remembers birthdays and the other never forgets them.

--Ogden Nash

Male domination has had some very unfortunate effects. It made the most intimate of human relations, that of marriage, one of master and slave, instead of between equal partners.

--Bertrand Russell

Open marriage is nature's way of telling you you need a divorce.

--Marshall Brickman

In any relationship in which two people become one, the end result is two half people.

--Wayne Dyer

I would rather be alone than be two people and still alone.

--Genevieve Bujold

The surest way to be alone is to get married.

--Gloria Steinem

When two people marry they become in the eyes of the law one person, and that one person is the husband!

--Shana Alexander

A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle.

--Gloria Steinem

The most important thing a man can know is that, as he approaches his own door, someone on the other side is listening for the sound of his footsteps.

--Clark Gable

Marriage must be a relation either of sympathy or of conquest.

--George Eliot

Eighty percent of married men cheat in America. The rest cheat in Europe.

--Jackie Mason

A man can have two, maybe three love affairs while he's married. After that it's cheating.

--Yves Montand

The most important thing in a relationship between a man and a woman is that one of them be good at taking orders.

--Linda Festa

If you want to read about love and marriage, you've got to buy two separate books.

--Alan King

Monogamy is the Western custom of one wife and hardly any mistresses.

--H. H. Munro (Saki)

When a girl marries, she exchanges the attentions of many men for the inattention of one.

--Helen Rowland

Even in civilized mankind faint traces of monogamous instinct can be perceived.

--Bertrand Russell

Many a man owes his success to his first wife and his second wife to his success.

--Jim Backus

The only solid and lasting peace between a man and his wife is doubtless a separation.

--Lord Chesterfield

Marriage isn't a word.... it's a sentence!

--King Vidor

Sex drive: A physical craving that begins in adolescence and ends at marriage.

--Robert Byrne

The incentive for girls to equip themselves for marriage and homemaking is genetic.
--Kathleen Ollerenshaw

For is there anything better than a wife who is chaste, domestic, a good housekeeper, a rearer of children; one to gladden you in health, to tend you in sickness; to be your partner in good fortune, to console you in misfortune; to restrain the mad passion of youth, and to temper the unseasonable harshness of old age?
--Dio Cassius

'Perhaps,' thought Praxis, 'that was the whole trouble. I was too nearly Willie's equal. He did his best: stopping my education, forbidding me to earn, reducing me to whoredom: yes, he certainly did his best. Except, alas, that to blame Willie for these things is ridiculous. He didn't do them. He pointed a finger, and I ran, willingly, in the direction he pointed.'

--Fay Weldon

To the man-in-the-street, who, I'm sorry to say
Is a keen observer of life,
The word Intellectual suggests straight away
A man who's untrue to his wife.

--W. H. Auden

Personally I know nothing about sex because I've always been married.
--Zsa Zsa Gabor

The bachelor is a peacock, the engaged man a lion and the married man a jackass.
--German Proverb

Better be an old man's darling than a young man's slave.
--Proverb

Every man can rule a shrew save he that has her.
--Proverb

I...chose my wife, as she did her wedding gown, not for a fine glossy surface, but such qualities as would wear well.
--Oliver Goldsmith

Brigands demand your money or your life; women require both.
--Samuel Butler

But nature be thanked, she has been so bountiful to us as we oftener enslave men than men enslave us. They seem to govern the world, but we really govern the world in that we govern men. For what man is he that is not governed by a woman, more or less?

--Margaret Cavendish

Women rule the world...no man has ever done anything that a woman either hasn't allowed him to do or encouraged him to do.

--Bob Dylan

I think it is a grave mistake for young girls to think that it has to be a career versus marriage, equality versus love. Partnership, not dependence, is the real romance in marriage.

--Muriel Fox

With many women I doubt whether there be any more effectual way of touching their hearts than ill-using them and then confessing it. If you wish to get the sweetest fragrance from the herb at your feet, tread on it and bruise it.

--Anthony Trollope

How men hate waiting while their wives shop for clothes and trinkets; how women hate waiting, often for much of their lives, while their husbands shop for fame and glory.

--Thomas Szasz

Women fail to understand how much men hate them.

--Germaine Greer

I don't think men and women were meant to live together. They are totally different animals.

--Diana Dors

Women expect decisions to be discussed first and made by consensus. They appreciate the discussion itself as evidence of involvement and communication. But many men feel oppressed by lengthy discussions about what they see as minor decisions, and they feel hemmed in if they can't just act without talking first. When women try to initiate a free-wheeling discussion by asking, 'What do you think?' men often think they are being asked to decide.

--Deborah Tannen

Any one must see at a glance that if men and women marry those whom they do not love, they must love those whom they do not marry.

--Harriet Martineau

If a man avoids
Marriage and all the troubles women bring
And never takes a wife, at last he comes
To a miserable old age, and does not have
Anyone to care for the old man.

--Hesiod

He was reputed one of the wise men, that made answer to the question, when a man should marry? A young man not yet, an elder man not at all.

--Francis Bacon

Of course the fate of the married woman is very much sadder than that of the spinster; at least the unmarried woman enjoys a certain freedom, she can enter society and travel with her family or with friends, whereas once a woman is married, she cannot stir from the house without the permission of her husband.

--Flora Tristan

This I set down as a positive truth. A woman with fair opportunities and without a positive hump, may marry whom she likes.

--William Makepeace
Thackeray

It is a woman's business to get married as soon as possible, and a man's to keep unmarried as long as he can.

--George Bernard Shaw

Now one of the great reasons why so many husbands and wives make a shipwreck of their lives together is because a man is always seeking for happiness, while a woman is still on a perpetual hunt for trouble.

--Dorothy Dix

Never feel remorse for what you have thought about your wife; she has thought much worse things about you.

--Jean Rostand

When you're bored with yourself, marry and be bored with someone else.

--David Pryce-Jones

The man who marries always makes the woman a present because she needs marriage and he does not...woman is made for man, man is made for life.

--Henri de Montherlant

I think women are basically quite lazy. Marriage is still a woman's best investment, because she can con some man into supporting her for the rest of his life.

--Alan Whicker

Love is moral even without legal marriage, but marriage is immoral without love.

--Ellen Key

A man is in general better pleased when he has a good dinner upon his table, than when his wife talks Greek.

--Samuel Johnson

I have always detested the belief that sex is the chief bond between man and woman. Friendship is far more human.

--Agnes Smedley

It is easier to live through someone else than to become complete yourself.

--Betty Friedan

Well, what is a relationship? It's about two people having tremendous weaknesses and vulnerabilities, like we all do, and one person being able to strengthen the other in their areas of vulnerability. And vice versa. You need each other. You bolster each other. You complete each other, passion and romance aside.

--Jane Fonda

To be a liberated woman is to renounce the desire of being a sex object or a baby girl. It is to acknowledge that the Cinderella-Prince Charming story is a child's fairy tale.

--Clare Boothe Luce

Any intelligent woman who reads the marriage contract, and then goes into it, deserves all the consequences.

--Isadora Duncan

So many persons think divorce a panacea for every ill, who find out, when they try it, that the remedy is worse than the disease.

--Dorothy Dix

Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance.

--Jane Austen

To marry a man out of pity is folly; and if you think you are going to influence the kind of fellow who has 'never had a chance, poor devil,' you are profoundly mistaken. One can only influence the strong characters in life, not the weak; and it is the height of vanity to suppose that you can make an honest man of anyone.

--Margot Asquith

Now a woman can get married or not as she likes, she doesn't mind. Nobody throws things at her, or sneers. It has allowed women to be themselves, to choose their own future, or their own present; to choose things for themselves and not to be tied up by tradition. They're free agents to act as they want and as they feel they really need to act, without people sneering or people talking. It's a marvelous feeling to feel free to do just what you want to do after being down so long.

--Elizabeth Dean

The best thing a woman can do is to marry, have children and bring them up herself.

--Elizabeth Lane

You may marry or you may not. In today's world that is no longer the big question for women. Those who glom on to men so that they can collapse with relief, spend the rest of their days shining up their status symbol and figure they never have to reach, stretch, learn, grow, face dragons or make a living again are the ones to be pitied. They, in my opinion, are the unfulfilled ones.

--Helen Gurley Brown

It is a commonplace in this century that women form the leisure class; and this leisure class of women, like leisured classes everywhere, has its leisure at the expense of other people, who in this case are the husbands.

--Suzanne LaFollette

Marriage is for women the commonest mode of livelihood, and the total amount of undesired sex endured by women is probably greater in marriage than in prostitution.

--Bertrand Russell

Marriage is the aim and end of all sensible girls, because it is the meaning of life.

--Elinor Glyn

If there is to be any romance in marriage woman must be given every chance to earn a decent living at other occupations. Otherwise no man can be sure that he is loved for himself alone, and that his wife did not come to the Registry Office because she had no luck at the Labour Exchange.

--Rebecca West

Men marry, indeed, so as to get a manager for the house, to solace weariness, to banish solitude.

--Theophrastus

She is but half a wife that is not, nor is capable of being, a friend.

--William Penn

A wife is essential to great longevity; she is the receptacle of half a man's cares, and two-thirds of his ill-humor.

--Charles Reade

A wife is a gift bestowed upon man to reconcile him to the loss of paradise.

-- Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

All married women are not wives.

--Japanese Proverb

The sexes were made for each other, and only in the wise and loving union of the two is the fullness of health and duty and happiness to be expected.

--William Hall

Men marry to make an end; women to make a beginning.

--Alexis Dupuy

God help the man who won't marry until he finds a perfect woman, and God help him still more if he finds her.

--Benjamin Tillet

Well-married, a man is winged; ill-matched, he is shackled.

--Henry Ward Beecher

A successful marriage is an edifice that must be rebuilt every day.

--André Maurois

It takes two to make a marriage a success and only one to make it a failure.
--Herbert Samuel

The rich woman who marries a money-loving husband is as good as unmarried.
--Juvenal

A wife is a burden imposed by law, and should be loved like one's fortune. But I do not wish to love even my fortune forever.
--Petronius

I fear that in the election of a wife
As in a project of war, to err but once
Is to be undone for ever.
--Thomas Middleton

Some cunning men choose fools for their wives, thinking to manage them, but they always fail.
--Samuel Johnson

No matter how happily a woman may be married, it always pleases her to discover that there is a nice man who wishes that she were not.
—H. L. Mencken

To church in the morning, and there saw a wedding in the church, which I have not seen many a day; and the young people so merry one with another! and strange to see what delight we married people have to see these poor fools decoyed into our condition, every man and woman gazing and smiling at them.
--Samuel Pepys

A poor man who marries a wealthy woman gets a ruler and not a wife.
--Anaxandrides

A girl must marry for love, and keep on marrying until she finds it.
--Zsa Zsa Gabor

It is love that is sacred....Marriage and love have nothing in common....We marry only once...but we may love twenty times....Marriage is law, and love is instinct.
--Guy de Maupassant

Marry first and love will follow.

--Hannah Cowley

To have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness, and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part.
--*Book of Common Prayer*

Man survives earthquakes, epidemics, the horrors of war, and all the agonies of the soul, but the tragedy that has always tormented him, and always will, is the tragedy of the bedroom.

--Leo Tolstoy

Marriage is the only life sentence that can be commuted for bad behavior.
--Will Carleton

When I am married, I want to be single, and when I am single, I want to be married.

--Cary Grant

If you are afraid of loneliness, don't marry.

--Anton Chekhov

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

--Lana Turner

The reason most women don't gamble is that their total instinct for gambling is satisfied by marriage.

--Gloria Steinem

Marriage: When a man agrees to give a woman the best ears of his life.

--Unknown

Marriage is a bribe to make a housekeeper think she's a householder.

--Thornton Wilder

A happy home is one in which each spouse grants the possibility that the other may be right, though neither believes it.

--Don Fraser

A man who marries his mistress leaves a vacancy in that position.

--Oscar Wilde

The violence we do to ourselves in order to remain faithful to the one we love is hardly better than an act of infidelity.

--François, Duc de La
Rochefoucauld

To marry a second time represents the triumph of hope over experience.

--Dr. Samuel Johnson

It takes a loose rein to keep a marriage tight.

--John Stevenson

I believe it's possible to have a great marriage and a great career, or to have a great marriage and great children, or to have great children and a great career, but it's awfully tough to have all three at the same time.

--Barbara Walters

Before a marriage, a man will lie awake all night thinking about something you said; after marriage, he'll fall asleep before you finish saying it.

--Helen Rowland

I married beneath me—all women do.

--Lady Nancy Astor

Marriage—a book in which the first chapter is written in poetry and the remaining chapters in prose.

--Beverley Nichols

The world has been busy for some centuries in shutting and locking every door through which a woman could step into wealth, except the door of marriage.

--Harriet Beecher Stowe

Marriage is ultimately an agreement—or conspiracy—between two people to treat each other as having each the right to be loved absolutely.

--Stephen Spender

The only choice to be made is of the most aesthetically satisfying form of suicide: marriage, and a forty-hour week, or a revolver.

--Albert Camus

One does not find happiness in marriage, but takes happiness into marriage.

--Unknown

A man's womenfolk, whatever their outward show of respect for his merit and authority, always regard him secretly as an ass, and with something akin to pity.

--H. L. Mencken

Get married, in any case. If you happen to get a good mate, you will be happy; if a bad one, you will become philosophical, which is a fine thing in itself.

--Socrates

In order to keep something sacred here below, it would be better if a marriage had one slave, instead of two strong-willed people.

--Madame de Staël

There is trouble with a wife, but it's even worse with a woman who is not a wife.

--Leo Tolstoy

Women hate revolutions and revolutionists. They like men who are docile, and well-regarded at the bank, and never late at meals.

--H. L. Mencken

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

--Anthony Trollope

The comfortable estate of widowhood, is the only hope that keeps up a wife's spirits.

--John Gay

Whilst you are proclaiming peace and good will to men, you insist upon retaining an absolute power over wives....Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could.

--Abigail to John Adams

A man may be a fool and not know it, but not if he is married.

--H. L. Mencken

'Tis my maxim, he's a fool that marries, but he's a greater that does not marry a fool.

--William Wycherley

His designs were strictly honourable, as the phrase is; that is, to rob a lady of her fortune by way of marriage.

--Henry Fielding

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

--Samuel Taylor
Coleridge

Even quarrels with one's husband are preferable to the ennui of a solitary existence.

--Elizabeth Patterson
Bonaparte

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

The world has grown suspicious of anything that looks like a happily married life.

--Oscar Wilde

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

--Helen Rowland

A man in love is incomplete until he has married. Then he's finished.

--Zsa Zsa Gabor

They say bigamy means one wife too many; but so does monogamy sometimes.

—Robert Webster Jones

If you tell people to live together, you tell them to quarrel.

--Congolese Proverb

He who marries a beauty marries trouble.

--Nigerian Proverb

Never marry for money. Ye'll borrow it cheaper.

--Scottish Proverb

The economic victims of the era are men who know someone has made off with their future—and they suspect the thief is a woman.

-- Susan Faludi

One of the first signs that a woman is in love is when she divorces her husband.

--Dolly Parton

I never hated a man enough to give him his diamonds back.

--Zsa Zsa Gabor

I'm not upset about my divorce. I'm only upset that I'm not a widow.

—Roseanne Barr

When you see a loving couple who have been married for many years, they are probably not married to each other.

--Unknown

Marriage is an ancient institution and most of our knowledge of antiquity is gleaned from shattered pottery.

--Unknown

Another species of optimist is the man who marries his secretary and thinks he will continue dictating to her.

--Unknown

When a wife insists on wearing the pants, some other woman is probably wearing the fur coat.

--Evan Esar

If there were only one bachelor left in the world, every married woman would still think she had married the wrong man.

--Evan Esar

It is better to know as little as possible of the defects of the person with whom you are to pass your life.

--Jane Austen

Before marriage a girl has to make love to her man to hold him; after marriage, she has to hold him to make love to him.

—Marilyn Monroe

Before marriage a man yearns for a woman; after marriage, the 'Y' is silent.

--Unknown

Every woman should marry twice. The first time for money, the second time for love.

--Mrs. Oliver Belmont

Love matches are formed by people who pay for a month of honey with a life of vinegar.

--Countess of Blessington

Marriage is the sovereign remedy against love.

--Christina of Sweden

Men are so silly. They don't—or won't—realize that it is not money, or clothes, or jewels their wives want, but tenderness, courtesy, understanding, and affection.

--Marie Corelli

Many marriages fail because couples cease to be sweethearts.

--Marie Corelli

Seeing unhappiness in the marriage of friends, I was content to have chosen music and laughter as a substitute for a husband.

--Elsa Maxwell

Marriage is a mutual blackmail. If it has to be undone, it just leads to a great legal event....Why shouldn't one realize it is a temporary state? Life is temporary.

--Edna O'Brien

Before marriage, a man will lie awake thinking about something you said; after marriage, he'll fall asleep before you finish saying it.

--Helen Rowland

Love, the quest; marriage, the conquest; divorce, the inquest.

--Helen Rowland

There's nothing like a good dose of another woman to make a man appreciate his wife.

--Clare Boothe Luce

It's as hard to get a man to stay at home after you've married him, as it was to get him to go home before you married him.

--Helen Rowland

There is nothing that changes a woman's affection for a man into indifference more quickly than the realization that the husband holds the purse strings too tightly, and that she is forced into the humiliating position of asking for every penny she needs.

--Baroness Summerskill

If you live with a man, you must conquer him every day. Otherwise he will go to another.

--Brigitte Bardot

The man who has to get his breakfast downtown is liable to be late for dinner.

--Kin Hubbard

The husband who gets his breakfast in bed is probably in a hospital.

--Evan Esar

Man worships woman, and then sacrifices himself at the altar.

--Evan Esar

The chief cause of marriage is that women dislike becoming spinsters.

--Evan Esar

A compatible marriage is one where the man makes the living and the woman makes the living worthwhile.

--Evan Esar

Forever is a long bargain.

--German Proverb

Why have hamburger out when you've got steak at home?

--Paul Newman

A man and woman marry because both of them don't know what to do with themselves.

--Anton Chekhov

There are two kinds of disillusioned women: those who have loved and lost, and those who have loved and married.

—Evan Esar

Disillusion is commonly found in only three classes of people: unmarried women, unmarried men, and married couples.

--Unknown

There's no one so disillusioned as the girl who married because she was tired of working.

—Evan Esar

Marrying for money is the hardest way to earn it.

--Unknown

Marriage is often the end of a man's troubles—but which end?

--Unknown

Don't criticize your husband's faults; if it weren't for them, he might have married a better wife.

—Evan Esar

The old-fashioned wife knew what her husband's favorite dishes were, but the modern wife knows what restaurants serve them.

—Evan Esar

Many women cut back what had to be done at home by redefining what the house, the marriage and, sometimes, what the child needs. One woman described a fairly common pattern: 'I do my half. I do half of his half, and the rest doesn't get done.'

--Arlie Hochschild

A married guy is responsible for everything, no matter what. Women, thanks to their having been oppressed all these years, are blameless, free as birds, and all the dirt they do is the result of premenstrual syndrome or postmenstrual stress or menopause or emotional disempowerment by their fathers or low expectations by their teachers or latent unspoken sexual harassment in the workplace, or some other airy excuse. The guy alone is responsible for every day of marriage that is less than marvelous and meaningful.

--Garrison Keillor

Divorce is the psychological equivalent of a triple coronary bypass.

--Mary Kay Blakely

With divorce, adolescents feel abandoned, and they are outraged at that abandonment. They are angry at both parents for letting them down. Often they feel that their parents broke the rules and so now they can too.

--Mary Pipher

For a couple with young children, divorce seldom comes as a 'solution' to stress, only as a way to end one form of pain and accept another.

--Fred Rogers

Birth control that really works: every night before we go to bed we spend an hour with our kids.

—Roseanne Barr

There is one fool at least in every married couple.

--Henry Fielding

There's no fool like an old fool who marries a young fool.

—Evan Esar

Once a woman has forgiven her man, she must not reheat his sins for breakfast.

--Marlene Dietrich

A man never knows what real happiness is until he gets married, and then it's too late.

--Henny Youngman

Before marriage, when a man holds a girl's hand, it's love; after marriage, it's self-defense.

—Evan Esar

A husband is a man who has lost his liberty in the pursuit of happiness.

—Evan Esar

A happy wife sometimes has the best husband, but more often makes the best of the husband she has.

—Evan Esar

Many a girl has an ideal boyfriend, but no woman has an ideal husband.

--Unknown

Love is one long sweet dream, and marriage is the alarm clock.

—Internet Meme

Few men marry their first love, and fewer marry their last.

--Unknown

Marriage is a feminine plot to add to a man's responsibilities and subtract from his rights.

—Evan Esar

Matrimony is a popular form of disagreement where the husband thinks the wife should spend less, and the wife thinks the husband should earn more.

--Unknown

The man who has been married many years knows more about marriage than the man who has been married many times.

--Unknown

Marriage is a continuous process of getting used to things you hadn't expected.

--Thomas Mullen

The best place to find optimists is at a marriage license bureau.

—Evan Esar

Another oppressed minority that deserves redress is the man who has a wife and two teenage daughters.

--Unknown

I believe in the possibility of a lasting marriage because I still believe in miracles.

--Sacha Guitry

Men nag their wives for what they do, women nag their husbands for what they don't do.

--Unknown

When a woman wears the pants in the family, the man often looks around for another skirt.

--Unknown

No one is perfect, except the man your wife could have married.

--Unknown

Of course Platonic love is possible, but only between husband and wife.

--Unknown

During a long and varied career as a bachelor, I have noticed that marriage is the death of politeness between a man and a woman.

--Arnold Bennett

A wife will declare she got the best man living, and then will try to make a new man out of him.

—Evan Esar

Some men profit by their mistakes, others get married a second time.

—Evan Esar

The woman who is disappointed in her first marriage is usually disillusioned in her second.

—Evan Esar

A happy marriage is one where the man knows what to remember, and the woman knows what to forget.

--Unknown

The best way for a woman to preserve her wedding ring is to dip it in dishwater three times a day.

—Evan Esar

Romance begins with a prince kissing an angel, and ends with a bald-headed man yawning at a fat woman.

—Evan Esar

After marriage a woman can see right through her husband without looking at him, and he can look right through her without seeing her.

--Helen Rowland

The man who gives in when he is wrong, is wise; the man who gives in when he is right, is married.

—*Life Magazine*

Most of the time in married life is taken up by talk.

--Friedrich Wilhelm
Nietzsche

The girl who marries because she's tired of working is in for a surprise.

--Unknown

The puppy love of today leads to the doghouse of tomorrow.

—Evan Esar

If a man is still in love after many years of married life, his wife probably doesn't know who she is.

—Evan Esar

Marriage is a trying institution in which a woman tries to make a man do as she thinks, and a man tries to make a woman think as he does.

--Unknown

It takes years of married life before a man learns to understand every word his wife is not saying.

—Evan Esar

There are as many women unhappily married as there are women unhappily unmarried.

--Unknown

Marriage teaches a man thrift, punctuality and many other virtues he wouldn't need if he stayed single.

--Unknown

There are no words in the English language that lead to as many quarrels as 'I do.'

--Unknown

A wedding is a ceremony at which a man chooses the woman he wants to spend his life listening to.

—Evan Esar

A good wife is good, but the best wife is not so good as no wife at all.

--Thomas Hardy

The main purpose of marriage will compel us to revise the institution so that we shall not waste any useful woman, especially if she is a woman of notable ability. It is a significant fact that there are no 'unwanted women' in polygamous countries. These derelicts are to be found only in countries which are monogamous; and they represent, less today, perhaps, than formerly, sheer waste of mother-power. Even as things are, the 'unwanted woman' is still doomed to lead a solitary life, unless she has an illicit lover, and can contemplate old age and retirement only with dismay.

--St. John Ervine

Lady Nancy Astor: If I were your wife, I'd put poison in your coffee.

Winston Churchill: If I were your husband, I'd drink it.

—Lady Nancy Astor &
Winston Churchill

What the hell, if you get divorced the chances are you'll end up with somebody else's castoff. What's so great about that?

-- E. E. LeMasters

There are no successful marriages. There are only those that are succeeding—or failing.

--Dr. Wells Goodrich

Marriage isn't a 50-50 proposition very often. It's more like 100-0 one moment and 0-100 the next.

--Billie Jean King

Marriage is the hell of false expectations, where both partners, expecting to be loved, defined and supported, abdicate responsibility for themselves and accuse the other of taking away freedom.

--Kathrin Perutz

The first time you buy a house you see how pretty the paint is and buy it. The second time you look to see if the basement has termites. It's the same with men.

--Lupe Velez

People enter second marriages as lemmings head for the sea.

--Leslie Aldridge

You can, after all, produce an orgasm yourself if that's what you want, so we must go to bed for something more.

--Merle Shain

Though a man be a dignified judge, a captain of industry, a national golf champion, or a distinguished physicist, he feels worthless and debased if he cannot perform an act which he shares in common with dogs, rabbits, cattle and rats.

--Howard R. Lewis and
Martha E. Lewis

It is nothing less than astonishing to discover how many modern, well-informed couples still believe the Victorian idea that there is something called the 'sex act' and that a man does it to a woman.

--William H. Masters and
Virginia E.
Johnson

The American girl makes a servant of her husband and then finds him contemptible for being a servant.

--John Steinbeck

Marriage is a fundamental social institution. It is central to the nurture and raising of children. It is the 'social glue' that reliably attaches fathers to children. It contributes to the physical, emotional and economic health of men, women and children, and thus to the nation as a whole. It is also one of the most highly prized of all human relationships and a central life goal of most Americans.

--David Popenoe and
Barbara
Whitehead

Each [of my wives] was jealous and resentful of my preoccupation with business. Yet none showed any visible aversion to sharing in the proceeds.

--J. Paul Getty

I have yet to hear a man ask for advice on how to combine marriage and a career.

--Gloria Steinem

Marriage is a mistake every man should make.

--George Jessel

When a woman wears the pants in a family, she has a good right to them.

—Josh Billings

Marriage is the triumph of imagination over intelligence. Second marriage is the triumph of hope over experience.

—Oscar Wilde

Just think, if it weren't for marriage, men would go through life thinking they had no faults at all.

--Unknown

Marriage is often only the simulacrum of intimacy, that beneath the pretence of sharing, both partners often go on living separate lives.

--William A. Henry, III

You show me a man with his stomach full of his wife's good cooking and his slippers on the rug and his pipe in his mouth and his newspaper in his hand while his wife sits by sewing, and I will show you a man who is too happy to be in love.

--Peggy Joyce Hopkins

Marriage is nature's way of keeping people from fighting with strangers.

--Alan King

No man should marry until he has studied anatomy and dissected at least one woman.

—Honore de Balzac

It is a sad fact that 50 percent of marriages in this country end in divorce. But hey, the other half end in death. You could be one of the lucky ones!

--Richard Jeni

Marriage doesn't need to be protected from same-sex couples. Divorce is what ended my marriage, not Stacy and Anna getting hitched. If the Christian Conservatives really want to protect marriage, they should propose a constitutional amendment to ban divorce. The murder rate would go up, but the institution of marriage would be strong and healthy.

--Wanda Sykes

I think the bottom-line difference being single and being married is this: When you're single, you're as happy as you are. When you're married, you can only be as happy as the least happy person in the apartment.

--Tom Hertz

Never, ever, discount the idea of marriage. Sure, someone might tell you that marriage is just a piece of paper. Well, so is money, and what's more life-affirming than cold, hard cash?

--Dennis Miller

Divorce is having your genitals torn off through your wallet.

--Robin Williams

Marriage is a wonderful institution, but who wants to live in an institution?

--Groucho Marx

In the first year of marriage, the man speaks and the woman listens. In the second year, the woman speaks and the man listens. In the third year, they both speak and the neighbors listen.

--Unknown

I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was Always.

--Henny Youngman

Courtship is like looking at the beautiful photos in a seed catalogue. Marriage is what actually comes up in your garden.

--Unknown

Why do most men die before their wives? They want to.

--Unknown

Why did Adam and Eve have the perfect marriage? He didn't have to listen to her talk about all the other men she could have married, and she didn't have to put up with his mother.

--Unknown

Love may be blind, but marriage is a real eye-opener.

--Unknown

Husband—A person who expects his wife to be perfect and to understand why he isn't.

--Unknown

I have often wanted to drown my troubles, but I can't get my wife to go swimming.

--Jimmy Carter

Long-term wife insurance—jewelry.

--Unknown

I had a rough marriage. My wife was an immature woman. See if this is not immature to you: I would be at home in the bathroom taking a bath and my wife would walk in whenever she felt like it and sink my boats.

--Woody Allen

The most dangerous food is wedding cake.

--James Thurber

A woman has the last word in any argument.

Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

--Unknown

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

--Johnny Carson

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

--Johnny Carson

To keep your marriage brimming,
With love in the loving cup,
Whenever you're wrong, admit it;
Whenever you're right, shut up.

--Ogden Nash

On rare occasions one does hear of a miraculous case of a married couple falling in love after marriage, but on close examination it will be found that it is a mere adjustment to the inevitable.

--Emma Goldman

Women don't want to hear what you think. Women want to hear what they think—in a deeper voice.

--Bill Cosby

I haven't spoken to my wife in years. I didn't want to interrupt her.

--Rodney Dangerfield

Man does not control his own fate. The women in his life do that for him.

--Groucho Marx

Marriage has no guarantees. If that's what you're looking for, go live with a car battery.

--Erma Bombeck

Marriage is the death of hope.

--Woody Allen

It is explained that all relationships require a little give and take. This is untrue. Any partnership demands that we give and give and give and at the last, as we flop into our graves exhausted, we are told that we didn't give enough.

--Quentin Crisp

More marriages might survive if the partners realized that sometimes the better comes after the worse.

--Doug Larson

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

—Friedrich Nietzsche

Why one man rather than another? It was odd. You find yourself involved with a fellow for life just because he was the one that you met when you were nineteen.

--Simone de Beauvoir

Whatever you may look like, marry a man your own age—as your beauty fades, so will his eyesight.

--Phyllis Diller

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

--Margo Kaufman

Brought up to respect the conventions, love had to end in marriage. I'm afraid it did.

--Bette Davis

I'd marry again if I found a man who had fifteen million dollars, would sign over half to me, and guarantee that he'd be dead within a year.

--Bette Davis

Strong women only marry weak men.

--Bette Davis

It isn't tying himself to one woman that a man dreads when he thinks of marrying; it's separating himself from all the others.

--Helen Rowland

Marriage is the miracle that transforms a kiss from a pleasure into a duty.

--Helen Rowland

When a man makes a woman his wife, it's the highest compliment he can pay her, and it's usually the last.

--Helen Rowland

When a man spends his time giving his wife criticism and advice instead of compliments, he forgets that it was not his good judgment, but his charming manners, that won her heart.

--Helen Rowland

When two people decide to get a divorce, it isn't a sign that they 'don't understand' one another, but a sign that they have, at last, begun to.

--Helen Rowland

In my house I'm the boss; my wife is just the decision maker.

--Woody Allen

Marriage is when a man and woman become as one; the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

--Unknown

Before marriage, a man declares that he would lay down his life to serve you; after marriage, he won't even lay down his newspaper to talk to you.

--Helen Rowland

Every pilot needs a co-pilot, and let me tell you, it is awful nice to have someone sitting there beside you, especially when you hit some bumpy air.

--Eric Wald

Marriage is not a passionfest but a boring, nonprofit business.

--Lori Gottlieb

If you don't run your own life, somebody else will.

--John Atkinson

The bottom line is that men, not women, are much happier when they're married.

--Philip Cohen

Man is the head of the house, but the woman is the neck that can turn the head.

--Nia Vardalos

The Census says that college educated young adults are the most likely to be married. That just shows there is a big difference between being book smart and having common sense.

--Jim Barach

According to a new study, women with lower IQs are more likely to marry rich guys. And women with higher IQs are more likely to marry rich old guys.

--Jimmy Fallon

Alimony is like buying hay for a dead horse.

--Groucho Marx

No man should have a secret from his wife; she invariably finds out.

—Oscar Wilde

I think serial monogamy says it all.

--Tracey Ullman

Bigamy is the only crime where two rites make a wrong.

--Bob Hope

Marriage is grounds for divorce.

--Sam Levenson

I've been in love with the same woman for forty-one years. If my wife finds out, she'll kill me.

--Henny Youngman

My husband and I are either going to buy a dog or have a child. We can't decide whether to ruin our carpet or ruin our lives.

--Rita Rudner

The worst feeling you'll ever feel is sitting next to the person who means the world to you knowing that you mean nothing to them.

--Unknown

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.

--Henny Youngman

Assumptions are the termites of relationships.

--Henry Winkler

A man snatches the first kiss, pleads for the second, demands the third, takes the fourth, accepts the fifth - and endures all the rest.

--Helen Rowland

I like to keep the house at 65 degrees, but my wife likes to keep it at 70 degrees. So we compromise and keep it at 70 degrees. If you think that's not compromise, you're not married.

--Craig Ferguson

When two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary.

--Ruth Graham

What's unusual in the human record, then, is not men cheating on their wives. No, what's unusual is male fidelity. The idea that men should be lovingly faithful to a single wife emerged as a Western middle-class ideal only in the 18th century.

--Kay Hymowitz

Relationships--of all kinds--are like sand held in your hand. Held loosely, with an open hand, the sand remains where it is. The minute you close your hand and squeeze tightly to hold on, the sand trickles through your fingers. You may hold onto some of it, but most will be spilled. A relationship is like that. Held loosely, with respect and freedom for the other person, it is likely to remain intact. But hold too tightly, too possessively, and the relationship slips away and is lost.

--Kaleel Jamison

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

--Rita Rudner

The right to marry whoever one wishes is an elementary human right...Even political rights, like the right to vote, and nearly all other rights enumerated in the Constitution, are secondary to the inalienable human rights to 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness' proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence; and to this category the right to home and marriage unquestionably belongs.

--Hannah Arendt

All brides are so beautiful, so where do all those homely housewives come from?

--Milton Berle

Practice, practice, practice. In marriage, what that means is when those tight times happen, when you feel, Oh, shit, this is terrible, I'm outta here, you take it as an opportunity to learn more about each other, get closer, and enlarge your love. Then that precious feeling kind of pulls you together and encourages you in the next tough time.

--Jeff Bridges

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.

--Prince Philip

My wife dresses to kill. She cooks the same way.

--Henny Youngman

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

--Rodney Dangerfield

My wife Mary and I have been married for forty-seven years and not once have we had an argument serious enough to consider divorce; murder, yes, but divorce, never.

--Jack Benny

I've never been married, but I tell people I'm divorced so they won't think something's wrong with me.

--Elayne Boosler

You know what I did before I married? Anything I wanted to.

--Henny Youngman

The only reason men are alive is for lawn care and vehicle maintenance.

--Tim Allen

It's the one vow that can really come back to bite you in the butt; '...in sickness and in health.'

--Bill Newcott

Mr. Collins, to be sure, was neither sensible nor agreeable; his society was irksome, and his attachment to her must be imaginary. But still he would be her husband. Without thinking highly either of men or of matrimony, marriage had always been her object; it was the only honourable provision for well-educated young women of small fortune, and, however uncertain of giving happiness, must be their pleasant preservative from want.

--Jane Austen (*Pride and Prejudice*)

I am not romantic, you know, I never was. I ask only a comfortable home.

--Jane Austen (*Pride and Prejudice*)

70 percent of black women are unmarried, and they are more than twice as likely as white women to remain that way.

--Kate Bolick

Black women who do marry are more likely than any other group of women to 'marry down.'

--Kate Bolick

When you're writing about black people, white people may assume it's unconnected to them. But the reality is that what's happened to the black family is already beginning to happen to the white family. In 1950, 64 percent of African American women were married—roughly the same percentage as white women. By 1965, African American marriage rates had declined precipitously....Black marriage rates have fallen drastically in the years since—but then, so have white marriage rates....In 1965, fewer than 25 percent of black children were born out of wedlock; in 2011, considerably more than 25 percent of white children are....Just as the decline of marriage in the black underclass augured the decline of marriage in the white underclass, the decline of marriage in the black middle class has prefigured the decline of marriage in the white middle class.

--Kate Bolick

If you're a successful black man in New York City, one of the most appealing and sought-after men around, your options are plentiful. Why marry if you don't have to? If you have four quality women you're dating and they're in a rotation, who's going to rush into a marriage?

--Ralph Richard Banks

I can't mate in captivity.

--Gloria Steinem

Many black communities have been robbed of the stability and prosperity on which long-term monogamous relationships are most readily built.

—Spencer Kornhaber

I pay very little regard...to what any young person says on the subject of marriage. If they profess a disinclination for it, I only set it down that they have not yet seen the right person.

—Jane Austen

Those black males who try to hold women down are expressing in sexist terms the same kinds of expressions in racist terms which they would deny.

--Jacquelyne Jackson

An unexpected consequence of people's marrying later is that they skip right over the cheating years.

--Stephanie Coontz

With society, marriage laws, and the courts the way they are (anti-male), why would any sane man with means get married today? Just as women have choices, so do men. Men can adopt, have babies through surrogates, etc. All without a wife. The woman holds all the cards in a relationship. She chooses whom she will date, whom she will have sex with, whom she will marry, whom she will have children with, and when she will divorce him (and get a big payday). TV tells a woman she does not need a man. The 'it takes a village' crowd tells her she does not need a man. The courts tell her she does not need a man. Until she hears her biological clock loudly ticking in her ears, she does not think she needs a man. For the past 40 years, women have been making their bed, and now they are starting to worry that men don't want to sleep in it.

--onlyabill (*TheAtlantic.com*)

My best birth control now is just to leave the lights on.

--Joan Rivers

The extinction of marriage would be the best thing to happen to men since the invention of the fishing reel.

--John Sack

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

--Groucho Marx

I am a marvelous housekeeper. Every time I leave a man I keep his house.

--Zsa Zsa Gabor

It's money. I remember it from when I was single.

--Billy Crystal

The ideal wife is one who does everything that her ideal husband likes and nothing else.

--George Bernard Shaw

The wife who has her own income is thereby rendered a poorer wife (and,) feeling independent of her natural protector, she becomes more critical, less lenient to his faults and failings.

--Letter Writer to *The Times of London* (1903)

In nearly 40 percent of American marriages, the wife earns more than the husband. Data indicate that this power inversion can trigger not just problems with gender identity but a troubling amount of male infidelity (peculiar new trend: women who are financially dependent on their husbands tend to be faithful, while, paradoxically, financially dependent men tend to stray). One 2010 study showed that when a woman's contribution to household income tops 60 percent, the couple is more likely to divorce.

--Sandra Tsing Loh

After a while, marriage is a sibling relationship—marked by occasional, and rather regrettable, episodes of incest.

--Martin Amis

Marriage is like a vacuum cleaner. You stick it to your ear and it sucks out all your energy and ambition.

--Marlo Thomas

I've seen a dramatic increase in cases where something on the computer triggered the breakup. People are more likely to leave relationships, because they're emboldened by the knowledge that it's no longer as hard as it was to meet new people. But whether it's dating sites, social media, e-mail—it's all related to the fact that the Internet has made it possible for people to communicate and connect, anywhere in the world, in ways that have never before been seen.

--Gilbert Feibleman,
Divorce Attorney

At every party there are two kinds of people—those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other.

--Ann Landers

I asked my dad once, 'How did you and Mom stay married for 33 years?' And he said, 'Well, we never wanted to get divorced at the same time'.

--Gwyneth Paltrow

Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton exemplify a long-forgotten rule of wedlock that we ought to keep in mind: intensity, sexual or otherwise, is the antithesis of stability. You can't have both for long, as Liz and Dick proved. Twice.

--Susan Squire

Marriage wasn't something we did after we'd grown up, it was how we have grown up and grown together.

--Julia Shaw

College graduates who wait until they are 30 to get married report an average annual income of about \$50,000—\$20,000 a year more than those who married before the age of 21. They also report arguing less frequently, and intensely, with their spouses.

--Megan McArdle

In a recent report, researchers identified the phenomenon of the 'Great Crossover': American women are having children, on average, a year earlier than they are (again, on average) getting married. And the results for American children are not pretty.

--Megan McArdle

Marriage allows couples to pool resources and plan for the future, which means they can build wealth faster than single people. It isn't quite true, as the old saw had it, that 'two can live as cheaply as one.' But it certainly is true that one married household is a lot cheaper to operate than two single ones. One kitchen, one bedroom, one living and dining area. One cable and Internet bill. And while you may fight over the thermostat, you'll still be spending half as much on heating and air conditioning.

--Megan McArdle

Could singlehood be, rather than a state of emergency or a problem that had to be solved, a positive life choice? Is a single person always the unmatched half of something, or could he or she be complete as is?

--Marion Winik

Decades ago, marriage was a pairing of opposites, with husbands working in offices or factories and wives working at home. But since women flooded the labor force, marriage has become an arrangement in which similarly educated, ambitious, and advantaged people are likely to pair off. In other words, the more hours you spend at work, the more likely you are to marry someone who also works a lot.

--Derek Thompson

Happiness rates among women have dropped even as women have acquired more life options. One possible cause is the lingering inequity in male-female marriage: women's at-home workload can become so burdensome that wives opt out of the paid workforce—or sit at the office making mental lists of the chores they do versus the chores their husbands do, and bang their heads on their desks in despair.

--Liza Mundy

As our economy has transitioned away from manufacturing and industry, men with a high-school education can no longer expect the steady, well-paying union jobs that formerly enabled many to support their families. Out-dated assumptions that men should bring something to the table, and that this something should be money, don't help. Surveying their prospects, many working-class mothers reject marriage altogether, perhaps reasoning that they can support a child, but don't want a dependent husband.

--Liza Mundy

'Specialization,' whereby one parent stays home and the other does the earning, is the most efficient way of running a household, because the at-home spouse enables the at-work spouse to earn more.

--Gary Becker

There will be changes to marriage, changes that some people will find scary. ‘When [conservatives] say that gay marriage threatens my marriage, I used to say, ‘That’s ridiculous.’ Now I say, ‘Yeah, it does. It’s asking you a crucial question about your marriage that you may not want to answer: If I’m a man, am I actually sharing the duties and responsibilities of married life equally with my wife? Same-sex marriage gives us another image of what marriage can be.

--Gary Hall

The central conflict of domestic life right now is not men versus women, mothers versus fathers. It is family versus money. Domestic life today is like one of those behind-the-scenes TV series about show business. The main narrative tension is: ‘How the hell are we going to make this happen?’ There are tears and laughs and little intrigues, but in the end, it’s just a miracle that the show goes on, that everyone is fed and clothed and out the door each day.

--Stephen Marche

According to a 2010 Pew poll, almost all millennials accept interracial dating and marriage—and the younger the person, the more likely that person was to have a friend of a different race.

--Caroline Linton

American marriage is faltering—and the baby is being thrown out with the bath water. Forty-four percent of millennials agree that marriage is becoming ‘obsolete.’ And even among those who support tying the knot (including many of those who say it’s obsolete), just 41 percent say children are important for a marriage—down from 65 percent in 1990.

--Joel Kotkin and
Harry Siegel

The childless and even the partnerless life has gained something of a cultural cachet, with some suggesting they represent not just a legitimate choice but a superior one. It’s a burgeoning movement that’s joined cultural tastemakers, academics, neo-Malthusians, greens, feminists, Democratic politicians, urban planners, and big developers—each with their own reasons for advancing ‘singlism,’ the term coined by University of California, Santa Barbara, psychology professor Bella DePaulo. Unlike families, whose members, after all, are often stuck with one another, she praises singles as enjoying ‘intentional communities’ and being more likely ‘to think about human connectedness in a way that is far-reaching and less predictable.’

--Joel Kotkin and
Harry Siegel

How many husbands have I had? You mean apart from my own?

--Zsa Zsa Gabor

Unattached is the new fancy-free, a strategy for success that translates to later marriages, easier divorces, fewer kids, and a tendency to keep running toward the next horizon, skipping family dinner in the process.

--Thomas Joiner

Three out of four marriages end in failure. If you were going skydiving and they told you three out of four parachutes won't open, would you still...jump?

--Bill Burr

When one's friends marry for money they are wretched; when they marry for love it is worse.

--Nancy Mitford

Marry for love if you can, it won't last, but it is a very interesting experience and makes a good beginning in life. Later on, when you marry for money, for heaven's sake let it be big money. There are no other possible reasons for marrying at all.

--Nancy Mitford

Many men are incredibly lazy. Men like to plop down on the couch and watch sports and drink beer. Romance, by contrast, is labor-intensive; you have to shower, shave, slap on some deodorant, put on something other than sweatpants, buy flowers, go to the movies, read a book every once in a while, think of compliments, engage in conversation. Cheating on your wife involves travel, dinner reservations, booking hotel rooms. Once a man has been married a few decades, the energy he would need to expend on an extramarital affair could be a life-threatening shock to his nervous system. It would be like asking the Sahara to suddenly erupt in foliage. That's why so many older men wouldn't even think of cheating on their wives. It's too exhausting.

--Joe Queenan

I personally cannot recall the last time I saw an attractive woman with a hideous man, and I keep my eyes peeled for this sort of thing. You might see a 10 with an 8, or an 8 with a 5, but you never see a 9 with a 2. And that's the reason ugly men do not cheat on their wives. An ugly man is so happy that he found one woman willing to gaze at his dreadful countenance for the next 40 years that there is no way he is going to risk everything by cheating on her.

--Joe Queenan

Having an extramarital affair takes money. Even if you don't have to shell out for airplane tickets and hotel rooms, sooner or later you're going to have to pony up for meals, flowers, chocolates, theater tickets, lingerie. If your girlfriend is really into Barbra Streisand or Andrea Bocelli, the concert tickets alone could bankrupt you, especially if you have to take your wife to the same concert the very next night.

--Joe Queenan

Some men don't cheat for the same reason they don't water-ski: They're not really good at it, there's no learning curve for this sort of thing, and the results could be disastrous.

--Joe Queenan

It's very difficult to judge relationships from the outside. You never know what happens in intimate moments with two people to know why they really support and love each other.

--Eric Braeden

When you see what some girls marry, you realize how they must hate to work for a living.

--Helen Rowland

They say marriages are made in Heaven. But so is thunder and lightning.

--Clint Eastwood

Once you are married, there is nothing for you, not even suicide, but to be good.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

My wife's jealousy is getting ridiculous. The other day she looked at my calendar and wanted to know who May was.

--Rodney Dangerfield

There are four stages in a marriage. First there's the affair, then the marriage, then children and finally the fourth stage, without which you cannot know a woman, the divorce.

--Norman Mailer

This would be a much better world if more married couples were as deeply in love as they are in debt.

--Earl Wilson

You can marry more money in five minutes than you can make in a lifetime.
—Sholom Aleichem

The wife must care for what the husband cares for if he is to remain resolute.
--Mother Jones

This is the mystery of marriage: God makes one existence of the two spouses—the *Bible* says ‘one flesh’—in the image of His love, in a communion which draws its origin and its strength from God.

--Pope Francis

Much can be inferred about a man from his mistress: in her one beholds his weaknesses and his dreams.

--Georg C. Lichtenberg

No one will ever win the battle of the sexes; there’s too much fraternizing with the enemy.

--Henry A. Kissinger

Been married for 20 years, but I still carry my wife’s picture in my wallet. Whenever I face difficulties in life, I take out my wallet and stare at her picture. And it comforts me knowing that...If I survived being married to this psycho, I can survive anything.

—Internet Meme

You can forgive people who do not follow you through a philosophical disquisition; but to find your wife laughing when you had tears in your eyes, or staring when you were in a fit of laughter, would go some way towards a dissolution of the marriage.

--Robert Stevenson

We are like sculptors, constantly carving out of others the image we long for, need, love or desire, often against reality, against their benefit, and always, in the end, a disappointment, because it does not fit them.

--Anais Nin

Having blown up my own long-term marriage via an extramarital affair, followed by a traumatic divorce, I tend to think of love as less a gently glowing hearth than a set of flaming train tracks you strap yourself onto.

--Sandra Tsing Loh

Never marry a man you wouldn't want to divorce.

--Nora Ephron

The most recommended strategies of reigniting passion in one's marriage—passion that has waned in part due to the deadening weight of its routines—involves loading up the relationship with even more routines, albeit of an ostensibly restorative nature: date nights, couples counseling, dance classes, scheduled sex, ten for tens (committing to 10 hugs of at least 10 seconds in duration every single day), Fresh Flower Fridays (a boon to the local florist, if not your marriage), required kisses upon parting, lunchtime exchanges of erotic texts or e-mails, and possibly some creative midday play at the local Holiday Inn involving nipple clamps, silk scarves, and an eye patch.

--Daniel Jones

It is a lovely thing to have a husband and wife developing together and having the feeling of falling in love again. That is what marriage really means—helping one another to reach the full status of being persons, responsible and autonomous beings who do not run away from life.

--Paul Tournier

The flame of anger, bright and brief, sharpens the barb of love.

--Walter Savage Landor

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

Honesty is probably the sexiest thing a man can give to a woman.

--Debra Messing

I should like to know what is the proper function of women, if it is not to make reasons for husbands to stay at home, and still stronger reasons for bachelors to go out.

--George Eliot

Marriage: Voluntary imprisonment.

--Helen Mirren

It takes one person to forgive, it takes two people to be reunited.

--Lewis B. Smedes

In many parts of the world, engaged couples begin their new life by spending a year arguing over a day. That day is the wedding.

--*Earth (The Book) A*
Visitor's Guide to
the Human Race

What are the most common ways of proposing marriage? A man will most commonly declare his intentions by presenting his beloved with a diamond ring on a large television during a packed sporting event. In the rare cases when a woman asks the man to marry, she often does it by urinating on a stick and showing him the results.

--*Earth (The Book) A*
Visitor's Guide to
the Human Race

The loss of liberty which must attend being a wife was of all things the most horrible to my imagination.

--Sarah Fielding

It is only when we no longer compulsively need someone that we can have a real relationship with them.

--Anthony Storr

Why should we take advice on sex from the pope? If he knows anything about it, he shouldn't!

--George Bernard Shaw

Let a man do what he will by a single woman, the world is encouragingly apt to think Marriage a sufficient amends.

--Samuel Richardson

The absolute yearning of one human body for another particular body and its indifference to substitutes is one of life's major mysteries.

--Iris Murdoch

Quarrels would not last long if the fault was only on one side.

--Francois de La
Rochefoucauld

You know why divorces are so expensive? They're worth it.

--Willie Nelson

Never trust a husband too far, nor a bachelor too near.

--Helen Rowland

Men who have a pierced ear are better prepared for marriage—they've experienced pain and bought jewelry.

--Rita Rudner

I have no sex appeal; if my husband didn't toss and turn, we'd never have had the kid.

--Joan Rivers

Half of all marriages end in divorce—and then there are the really unhappy ones.

--Joan Rivers

Marriage is good enough for the lower classes: they have facilities for desertion that are denied to us.

--George Bernard Shaw

I want just to be happy and peaceful. And that's not always the case when you're married.

--Olivier Martinez

Here's to our wives and sweethearts—may they never meet.

--John Bunny

Love seems the swiftest, but it is the slowest of all growths. No man or woman really knows what perfect love is until they have been married a quarter of a century.

--Mark Twain

Of all the home remedies, a good wife is best.

--Kin Hubbard

Never ever discount the idea of marriage. Sure, someone might tell you that marriage is just a piece of paper. Well, so is money, and what's more life-affirming than cold, hard cash?

—Dennis Miller

A psychiatrist asks a lot of expensive questions your wife asks for nothing.

—Joey Adams

I do not consider divorce an evil by any means. It is just as much a refuge for women married to brutal men as Canada was to the slaves of brutal masters.
—Susan B. Anthony

Disguise our bondage as we will, 'Tis woman, woman, rules us still.
—Thomas More

Marriage is give and take. You'd better give it to her or she'll take it anyway.
—Joey Adams

Don't be with someone you can live with; be with someone you can't live without.
—James Dobson

I've never believed much in that holding hands kind of love. I've always thought that love is about two different personalities trying to confront life, trying to make sense of their responsibilities, to themselves, to each other, and to the wider society.
—Alan Bates

That is what marriage really means: helping one another to reach the full status of being persons, responsible and autonomous beings who do not run away from life.
—Paul Tournier

People are always asking couples whose marriage has endured at least a quarter of a century for their secret for success. Actually, it is no secret at all. I am a forgiving woman. Long ago, I forgive my husband for not being Paul Newman.
—Erma Bombeck

For years my wedding ring has done its job. It has led me not into temptation. It has reminded my husband numerous times at parties that it's time to go home. It has been a source of relief to a dinner companion. It has been a status symbol in the maternity ward.
—Erma Bombeck

Marrying an old bachelor is like buying second-hand furniture.
—H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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

An affair wants to spill, to share its glory with the world. No act is so private it does not seek applause.

—John Updike

Every man needs two women: a quiet home-maker, and a thrilling nymph.

—Iris Murdoch

Marriage is like the Army; everyone complains, but you'd be surprised at the large number of people who re-enlist.

—James Garner

I found out that when you get married, the man becomes the head of the house. And the woman becomes the neck, and she turns the head any way she wants to.

—Yakov Smirnoff

It seems to me that a mutually beneficial relationship between a man and woman requires the man to be dominant. A sensible woman will allow the man to think he is the most important partner.

—Beryl Bainbridge

A man is only as faithful as his options.

—Chris Rock

I think that two people who decide to live together in a marriage situation, they have an obligation to make the marriage work for them.

—Helen Reddy

All my friends are getting married. I guess I am just at that age where people give up.

—Amy Schumer

In marriage you have two choices: Be right or be happy.

—Internet Meme

Marriage: A permanent commitment to a temporary delusion.

—*theChive*

There are two times a man doesn't understand a woman, before marriage and after marriage!

—Unknown

How do women define a 50/50 relationship?

We cook. They eat.

We clean. They dirty.

We iron. They wrinkle.

—Keith Evans

Women are much more complicated than men. Men are very simple. And you know why? It's because their brains are so different. First, I want to start with men. Men's brains are very unique. Most women don't realize that whether we are having sex or watching sports, our brains are made up of little boxes. We've got a box for everything. We've got a box for the car. We've got a box for the money. We've got a box for the job. We've got a box for you. We've got a box for the kids. We've got a box for your mother somewhere in the basement.

We've got boxes everywhere. And the rule is the boxes don't touch. When a man discusses a particular subject, we go to that particular box, we pull that box out, we open the box, and we discuss only what is in THAT BOX. And then we close the box and put it away being very, very careful not to touch other boxes.

Now women's brains are very, very different from men's brains. Women's brains are made up of a big ball of wire. And everything is connected to everything. The money is connected to the car and the car is connected to your job and your kids are connected to your mother and everything is connected. It's like the internet superhighway, and it's all driven by energy that we call emotion. It's one of the reasons why women tend to remember...everything.

Because if you take an event and you connect it to an emotion and it burns in your memory and you can remember it forever. The same thing happens for men. It just doesn't happen very often, because quite frankly...we don't care. Women tend to care about everything. And she just loves it.

Now men, we have a box in our brain that most women are not aware of. This particular box has nothing in it. In fact, we call it the 'nothing box.' And of all the boxes a man has in his brain, the 'nothing box' is our favorite box. If a man has a chance, he'll go to his nothing box every time. That's why a man can do something seemingly completely brain dead for hours on end. You know, like fishing.

—Mark Gungor

Women... can't live with 'em... can't shoot 'em.

—Ivan Turgenev

Husbands are the best people to share secrets with. They'll never tell anyone because they really aren't listening anyway.

—Unknown

A good marriage is where both people feel like they're getting the better end of the deal.

—Anne Lamott

I think that everyone should get married at least once, so you can see what a silly, outdated institution it is.

—Madonna Ciccone

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.
A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change and she does.

—H. M. Harwood

I wish I had known sooner that I like being on my own. If I'd figured that out earlier, I probably wouldn't have gotten married three times.

—Whoopi Goldberg

Monogamy is the practice of not having sex with one person at a time.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

Love is more pleasant than marriage for the same reason that novels are more amusing than history.

—Nicolas Chamfort

The Wedding March always reminds me of the music played when soldiers go into battle.

—Heinrich Heine

It is as absurd to say that a man can't love one woman all the time as it is to say that a violinist needs several violins to play the same piece of music.

—Honoré de Balzac

Divorce is probably of nearly the same date as marriage. I believe, however, that marriage is some weeks the more ancient.

—Voltaire

I was against gay marriage until I realized I didn't have to get one.

—James Carville

There is nothing nobler or more admirable than when two people who see eye to eye keep house as man and wife, confounding their enemies and delighting their friends.

—Homer

A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

—Internet Meme

You can make those promises with just as much passion the second time around. Such is the regenerative power of the human heart.

—Marion Wink

If you're wrong and you shut up, you're wise. If you're right and you shut up, you're married.

—Internet Meme

I am about to be married, and am of course in all the misery of a man in pursuit of happiness.

—Lord Byron

Marriage. It's a hard term to define. Especially for me—I've ducked it like root canal. Still there's no denying the fact that marriage ranks right up there with birth and death as one of the three biggies in the human safari. It's the only one though that we'll celebrate with a conscious awareness. Very few of you remember your arrival and even fewer of you will attend your own funeral.

—Andrew Schneider

We are each of us angels with only one wing, and we can only fly by embracing one another.

—Lucretius

My wife wants sex in the back of the car and she wants me to drive.

—Rodney Dangerfield

If it weren't for women, men would still be wearing last week's socks.

—Cynthia Nelms

Never advise anyone to go to war or to marry.

—Spanish Proverb

A man snatches the first kiss, pleads for the second, demands the third, takes the fourth, accepts the fifth - and endures all the rest.

—Helen Rowland

The married are those who have taken the terrible risk of intimacy and, having taken it, know life without intimacy to be impossible.

—Carolyn Heilbrun

Love is an obsessive delusion that is cured by marriage.

—Dr. Karl Bowman

My mother buried three husbands—and two of them were only napping.

—Rita Rudner

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

—Leonardo da Vinci

If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart. I'll stay there forever.

—Winnie the Pooh

I know many married men. I even know a few happily married men, but I don't know one who wouldn't fall down the first open coal hole running after the first pretty girl who gave him a wink.

—George Jean Nathan

Marriage as an institution developed from rape as a practice. Rape, originally defined as abduction, became marriage by capture. Marriage meant the taking was to extend in time, to be not only use of but possession of, or ownership.

—Andrea Dworkin

A mortal lives not through that breath that flows in and that flows out. The source of his life is another, and this causes the breath to flow.

—Philipus Aureolus
Paracelsus

Men dream of courtship, but in wedlock wake.

—Alexander Pope

Marriage and relationships can be regulated, and choice can be constrained, but human urges will forever be governed by a more incalculable rule: the allure of the new, or of the semblance of the new, may well be irresistible.

—Sophie Gilbert

The house wife is an unpaid employee in her husband's house in return for the security of being a permanent employee.

—Germaine Greer

There are three rings involved with marriage. The engagement ring, the wedding ring, and the suffering.

—Woody Allen

Marriage, if one will face the truth, is an evil, but a necessary evil.

—Menander

Before marriage, many couples are very much like people rushing to catch an airplane; once aboard, they turn into passengers. They just sit there.

—Paul Getty

Arguing with a woman is like reading the Software License Agreement. In the end, you ignore everything and click 'I agree.'

—Internet Meme

Sometimes a kiss is just a trick to get a woman to shut up.

—Internet Meme

Marriage is like a deck of cards. In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond. By the end, you wish you had a club and a spade.

—Ged Backland

Bring a wife home to your house when you are of the right age, not far short of 30 years, nor much above; this is the right time for marriage.

—Hesiod

No marriage is all sunshine, but two people can share one umbrella and survive the storm together.

—Unknown

A strong marriage doesn't always have two strong people at the same time. It is a husband and wife who take turns being strong for each other in the moments when the other feels weak.

—Dr. Laura

After marriage, the other man's wife looks more beautiful.

—Navjot Singh Sidhu

If we take matrimony at its lowest, we regard it as a sort of friendship recognised by the police.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

'Yes, Lizzie got married yesterday,' Lizzie's mother said proudly. 'Her pa says 13 is pretty young, but she's got her a good man, and I say it's better to settle down young. I was married young myself.'

—Laura Ingalls Wilder

Women are either married, or have been, or plan to be, or suffer from being.

—Simone de Beauvoir

For a long time—after a year in which I was invited to 18 weddings—I've been afraid of the way marriage often stands for the point at which your life closes in, rather than looks outwards. It's only within the last couple of years that I've grown up enough to understand fundamentally that A) that's not true for everyone and B) there is no way around the question. As with kids, there's no avoiding marriage's cultural importance, even if you avoid the fact itself.

—Rebecca Traister

Marriage either turns you into a doll or a dredge.

—Susan B. Anthony

One of the interesting things that's happened coterminously with the decline in marriage rate is the rise of the wedding industrial complex and the fetishization of marriage as the signal achievement of female life. That's happened even as women have been marrying less and less, and for a couple of reasons. One, the economic strata of women who still most consistently marry are the wealthiest women: you have a whole industry that's built up around selling them very expensive weddings, and this industry now crosses classes. There's a diffuse but very strong pressure to correct women's move away from marriage by fetishizing it.

—Rebecca Traister

It's not fair for single people that the only acceptable times to back off work and prioritize yourself are around marriage and kids; it's not fair that women are only celebrated when they are about to devote themselves to a spouse or a family.

—Jia Tolentino

Truly, love is something a lot more than to sleep with someone else, more than just to talk with that person. It's to think of that person, wanting them to be happy, to wish them well, to care about them, showing consideration, listening when they are happy or when they're sad, encouraging, it is to show your love, to make that someone feel special, it is always waiting to hear their voice, keeping them in your mind, in your thoughts, and in your heart.

—José N. Harris

Being pregnant is an occupational hazard of being a wife.

—Queen Victoria

There's nothing sweeter than hearing a man say those three little words... 'You were right.'

—*www.facebook.com/maxine*

People who care about each other enjoy doing things for one another. They don't consider it servitude.

—Ann Landers

Essentially my parents choose. I have known this for all my life, but I still feel a bit caged because I do not get the freedom to choose my own love life. At the same time, I also trust my parents. In my culture, my parents enforce some rules on me and I understand the reasoning behind it. But I feel as if I cannot live my teenage years to the fullest. Being around all these kids my age and experiencing such fun things makes me feel as if I am missing out on this whole other world. Although I appreciate my culture, I feel special being Indian, but living in America is a totally different experience with restrictions. It affects my familial because if I do not follow through with the arranged marriage, I would be shunned....If I could put the whole process in my words, it would be like this: when I'm 24, my friends and family would recruit possible guys. My parents and theirs meet and settle out all the options. Next, the guys are matched with horoscope and priest predictions, and finally I choose one guy to date, and then later comes the engagement. The wedding lasts six days and meeting my husband takes about six months to a year. I could never have a natural love life. However, I feel safe because I know I'm in good hands and that my life is set.

—Puja Lad

For it is mutual trust, even more than mutual interest that holds human associations together. Our friends seldom profit us but they make us feel safe. Marriage is a scheme to accomplish exactly that same end.

—H. L. Mencken

Arguing with a woman is like reading the Software License Agreement. In the end, you ignore everything and click ‘I agree.’

—*theChive*

Financial insecurity is associated with depression, anxiety, and a loss of personal control that leads to marital difficulties.

—Brad Klontz

If you want to sacrifice the admiration of many men for the criticism of one, go ahead, get married.

—Katharine Hepburn

Marriage is about the tiebreaking vote when you just can't decide what you should do next.

—Stephen King

There's only one way to have a happy marriage and as soon as I learn what it is I'll get married again.

—Clint Eastwood

Miss McCarthy's *The Group* could serve to illustrate ‘what happens to women who have been educated at first-rate women's colleges—taught philosophy and history—and then were consigned to breast-feeding and gourmet cooking.’

—Joan Didion

I don't think a prostitute is more moral than a wife, but they are doing the same thing.

—Prince Philip

I grew up in a very large family in a very small house. I never slept alone until after I was married.

—Lewis Grizzard

Love our spouse more than you love our carer, hobbies and money. That other stuff can't love you back.

—*DaveWillis.org*

MARRIAGE ADVICE

Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger.

Learn the wisdom of compromise,
for it is better to bend a little than to break.

Believe the best rather than the worst.

People have a way of living up or down to your opinion of them.

Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.

The person you choose to marry is deserving of the courtesies and kindnesses you bestow on your friends.

Please hand this down to your children and your children's children.

—Jane Wells (1886)

If your boyfriend/husband ever says anything rude or disrespectful to you, tell him to write it down on a piece of paper, get in his car, drive, and deliver it to his mother or simply hand it to his daughter. If he can't say it to his mother, or doesn't want another man to one day say it to his daughter, he shouldn't be saying it to you.

—Unknown

Being married is like having the freedom to do whatever your wife tells you.

—Ged Backland

Relationships: Two people constantly asking each other what they want to eat, until one of them dies.

—Internet Meme

The great secret of successful marriage is to treat all disasters as incidents and none of the incidents as disasters.

—Sir Harold George
Nicolson

Marriage should be a duet —when one sings, the other claps.

—Joe Murray

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.

—Mignon McLaughlin

There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion, or company than a good marriage.

—Martin Luther

And now here is my secret, a very simple secret; it is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye.

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery

A good marriage is at least 80 percent good luck in finding the right person at the right time. The rest is trust.

—Nanette Newman

Love is blind; marriage is the eyeopener.

—Pauline Thomason

None of us can boast about the morality of our ancestors. The record does not show that Adam and Eve were ever married.

—Edgar Watson Howe

How utterly impossible, it is, in hate or in friendship, to fully know another person. We don't. You don't know the person you live with even though you know a lot about them. The constant shuffling of change, and through everything the paradox of ambiguity. We know a version of them. And we know the facts.

—Edna O'Brien

A journey is like marriage. The certain way to be wrong is to think you control it.

—John Steinbeck

Let's hope the institution of marriage survives its detractors, for without it there would be no more adultery and without adultery two-thirds of our novelists would stand in line for unemployment checks.

--Peter S. Prescott

The greatest of all arts is the art of living together.

—William Lyon Phelps

You only get married for the second time once.

—Garrison Keillor

Women have always instigated most divorces, so the rise of feminism and woman's liberation were huge factors.

—Lawrence Ganong

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

—Helen Rowland

To be happy with a man you must understand him a lot and love him a little. To be happy with a woman you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all.

—Helen Rowland

The way you argue with your spouse could be tied to your health woes. New research from the University of California, Berkeley and Northwestern University says spouses (especially husbands) who rage with anger during a fight are more likely to develop cardiovascular problems, such as chest pain or high blood pressure. Those who stonewall, shutting down emotionally, were more likely to develop muscular issues, such as pain in the back or neck.

—Candy Sagon

The whole purpose of a husband and wife is that when hard times knock at the door you should be able to embrace each other.

—Nelson Mandela

Know those adorable idiosyncrasies you loved when first dating? After 20 years of marriage they come what the police refer to as 'motive.'

—Unknown

When my husband goes outside to investigate a strange noise, how long do I have to wait before un-pausing the show we were watching?

—Unknown

My husband is home sick from work today and it's like having one thousand babies.

—Unknown

My husband's new prescription eyeglasses don't work. He still can't see things my way.

—Unknown

A good marriage is one which allows for change and growth in the individuals and in the way they express their love.

—Pearl S. Buck

Teenage boys, goaded by their surging hormones run in packs like the primal horde. They have only a brief season of exhilarating liberty between control by their mothers and control by their wives.

--Camille Paglia

My advice to a woman who is going with or married to a male who becomes violent is this: One strike and you're out.

—Ann Landers

One thing I learned about marrying a sign painter: Once things go dry, they stay that way.

—Arlene Syverson

Men who are economically dependent on their wives are more likely than others to be unfaithful.

—Christin Munsch

One girl under the age of 15 gets married every seven seconds....According to UNICEF data, more than 700 million girls today were married before their 18th birthday—and one in three of them was married before she turned 15. They are often forced into these marriages, almost invariably to older men. The bulk of them live in relatively poor, rural communities in South Asia and parts of Africa. In many instances, these unions take place in contravention of local laws....girls who are subject to such marriage often are more vulnerable to abuse and trafficking, as well as the risk of maternal mortality. 'Child marriage starts a cycle of disadvantage that denies girls the most basic right to learn, develop and be children,' Helle Thorning-Schmidt, the chief executive of Save the Children, said in a statement. 'Girls who marry too early often can't attend school, and are more likely face domestic violence, abuse and rape.'

—Ishaan Tharoor

If you feed a man, and wash his clothes, and borne his children, you and that man are married, that man is yours. If you sweep a house, and tend its fires and fill its stoves, and there is love in you all the years you are doing this, then you and that house are married, that house is yours.

—Truman Capote

The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.

--Theodore Hesburgh

Good marriages are built on respectful disagreement and back-and-forth cooperation. We learn to cue each other, fill in for each other, forgive each other's fumbles, celebrate small victories. We revel in the realization that we're working on something bigger than both of us, and that parenthood is not only incredibly challenging but also incredibly enriching.

—Susan Lapinski

Traditionally, marriage involved a kind of bartering, rather than mutual interdependence or role sharing. Husbands financially and economically supported wives, while wives emotionally, psychologically and socially supported husbands. He brought home the bacon, she cooked it. He fixed the plumbing, she the psyche.

—Bettina Arndt

Who of us is mature enough for offspring before the offspring themselves arrive? The value of marriage is not that adults produce children but that children produce adults.

--Peter de Vries

The ideal mother, like the ideal marriage, is a fiction.

--Milton R. Sapirstein

All women should know how to take care of children. Most of them will have a husband some day.

--Franklin P. Jones

All the research shows that marriage—or a long-term, stable relationship so close to marriage that we might as well call it that—is the best environment to raise children in.

--Megan McArdle

Women's median age when they have their first child is lower than their median age at first marriage. In other words, having children before you marry has become normal. College graduates enjoy relatively stable unions, but for every other group, marriage is collapsing. Among 'middle American' women (those with a high-school degree or some college), an astonishing 58 percent of first-time mothers are unmarried.

--Liza Mundy

Babysitter \$800 a month, Diapers \$100 a month, Formula \$150 a month....Abstinence...priceless.

—Slogan

He feeds upon her face by day and night,
And she with true kind eyes looks back on him,
Fair as the moon and joyful as the light:
Not wan with waiting, not with sorrow dim;
Not as she is, but was when hope shone bright;
Not as she is, but as she fills his dream.

—Christina Rossetti

People who have kids experience more depression than child-free adults....Parent-hood isn't associated with enhanced mental health. The happiest people are likely to be married, earn between \$50,000 and \$70,000 and have no kids.

--Daniel Gilbert

Your children are not here to fill the void left by marital dissatisfaction and disengagement. They are not to be utilized as a substitute for adult-adult intimacy. They are not in this world in order to satisfy a wife's or a husband's need for love, closeness or a sense of worth. A child's task is to fully develop his/her emerging self. When we place our children in the position of satisfying our needs, we rob them of their childhood.

—Aaron Hess

The easiest way to get a healthy body is to marry one.

—Slogan

May you grow old on one pillow.

—Armenian Saying

Needles and pins, needles and pins
When a man marries his trouble begins.

—English Proverb

Never above you. Never below you. Always beside you.

—Walter Winchell

You don't marry one person; you marry three—the person you think they are, the person they are, and the person they are going to become as the result of being married to you.

—Richard Needham

The greatest of all arts is the art of living together.

—William Lyon Phelps

The most stressful situation that I have had is when my parents were divorced while I was in the 6th grade. As soon as they were divorced my mother's friend and her two kids moved in with my mom & my brother Steve. It was really hard on me and Steve because we wanted our dad to come back to live with us. And I just think, and then I start to cry. I try not to, but it gets me mad because I think my life is worth nothing.

—Anonymous Child

Marriage isn't about a beautiful wedding, fancy homes, cute kids, nice cars and white picket fences. Marriage is hospital stays, working long hours, fighting through struggles, setting up life insurance, paying bills, keeping the faith & staying together through it ALL.

—Internet Meme

We live on one income, not two, but there are ways to get by on less. First, want little. Second, be satisfied. Third, don't replace anything that still has a useful life. This last point has served our marriage well.

—Karen Maezen Miller

New Rule: Gay marriage won't lead to dog marriage. It is not a slippery slope to rampant inter-species coupling. When women got the right to vote, it didn't lead to hamsters voting. No court has extended the equal protection clause to salmon. And for the record, all marriages are 'same sex' marriages. You get married, and every night, it's the same sex.

—Bill Maher

The person who tries to live alone will not succeed as a human being. His heart withers if it does not answer another heart. His mind shrinks away if he hears only the echoes of his own thoughts and finds no other inspiration.

—Pearl S. Buck

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

—Zig Ziglar

Many marriages would be better if the husband and the wife clearly understood that they are on the same side.

—Zig Ziglar

An actor should never marry, not even another actor. You're too involved with yourself, and your work is too demanding, to give the necessary amount of attention to another human being. Inevitably that person feels left out. And becomes unhappy. We must never make people unhappy. Life's too short for that.

--Katharine Hepburn

Wife: a former sweetheart.

—H. L. Mencken

Poetry too readily understood is commonly dispensed with altogether, like conversation after marriage.

--Frank Moore Colby

Generally speaking, when a woman offers unsolicited advice or tries to help a man, she has no idea of how critical and unloving she may sound to him.

—John Gray

Before she marries, every girl should take a course in domestic silence.

—Evan Esar

It is impolite for a man to fall asleep while his wife is talking, but a man has to sleep some time.

—Evan Esar

Many women remain interested in marriage because they are under the impression that it guarantees them a patient, sensitive, and emotionally available conversation partner for life.

--Jeffrey Goldberg

A wedding is a ceremony at which a man chooses the woman he wants to spend his life listening to.

—Evan Esar

Since I've got on the Internet, it's opened a whole world of wasted time for me. My wife says she's an Internet widow.

—Mick Ralphs

I wonder what my parents did to fight boredom before the internet...I asked my 17 brothers and sisters, and they didn't know either.

—*womenafter50.com*

Sitting beside my husband I said, 'I love you.'
He replied, 'Is that you or the wine talking?'
I said, 'It's me...Talking to the wine.'

—Unknown

Married life is an existence with bars around it.

—Al Goldstein

Lincoln was engaged to Mary Todd, but was apparently reluctant to marry her and, in a fit of depression, broke the engagement—then reconsidered and on November 4, 1842, married her....Mary was of an aristocratic family with whom homespun Lincoln felt ill at ease. Mary had towering ambitions for her husband (any husband), and Lincoln's desires were far more limited in scope. Lincoln's practical sense might have told him it would be an unhappy marriage—and so, in fact, it was.

—Isaac Asimov

The only unnatural sexual act is that which you cannot perform.

—Alfred Kinsey

All too often women believe it is a sign of commitment, an expression of love, to endure unkindness or cruelty, to forgive and forget. In actuality, when we love rightly we know that the healthy, loving response to cruelty and abuse is putting ourselves out of harm's way.

—Bell Hooks

Dr. Morris soon recognized that the difference between successful and unsuccessful marriages can often be traced to how well couples are able to 'bond' during the courtship period. By bonding he referred to the process by which a man and woman become cemented together emotionally. It describes the chemistry that permits two previous strangers to become intensely valuable to one another. It helps them weather the storms of life and remain committed in sickness and health, for richer or poorer, for better or worse, forsaking all others until they are parted in death. It is a phenomenal experience that almost defies description.

—James C. Dobson

In the career of female fame, there are few prizes to be attained which can vie with the obscure state of a beloved wife, or a happy mother.

--Jane Porter

Apply yourself at school and at work. And to cover all your bases, marry a man with money.

—Daniela Drake

It goes far towards reconciling me being a woman when I reflect that I am thus in no danger of marrying one.

--Lady Mary Wortley
Montagu

The question that confronts every girl is whether she wants a career or just one husband.

—Evan Esar

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

--Robert A. Heinlein

Instead of getting married again, I'm going to find a woman I don't like and just give her a house.

—Lewis Grizzard

Women are made to be loved, not understood.

--Oscar Wilde

It's not clear that all young women really want to embrace the carefree lifestyle promoted in *Girls* or *Sex and the City*. Some of them want boyfriends, now an apparently endangered species. Most want, eventually, to marry. And not all enjoy the hookup culture of casual, often even anonymous, sex. Yet these are the peer pressures that surround them. Just go to pretty much any Internet dating site or campus blog. Women are supposed to be actively sexual, skilled in the range of activities that their partners are watching online. They are supposed to look like models, drink like fish, and not care a whit if their one-night fling never texts them again. And then they're somehow supposed to find the right guy at the right time, don an oddly virginal wedding gown, and snuggle in to a life of cozy monogamy ever after. It's tough. Women of earlier generations were almost certainly frustrated by the long list of romantic options—affairs, divorces, same-sex partners—that remained forever out of reach. But women today face an upside-down problem: the expectation that in love, as in so many areas, they are somehow expected to have, and do, it all.

--Debora Spar

The longer you spend dating around, the more likely it is that you'll become pregnant by someone you're not intending to marry, forcing the unhappy choice between an abortion, adoption, and single parenthood.

--Megan McArdle

Women may give lip service to wanting husbands who take on an equal role in raising children, but many will pull rank when an important decision, like how to discipline or what baby sitter to hire, has to be made.

--Pepper Schwartz

The appalling thing is the degree of charity women are capable of. You see it all the time... love lavished on absolute fools. Love's a charity ward, you know.

--Lawrence Durrell

I don't believe man is a woman's natural enemy. Perhaps his lawyer is.

--Shana Alexander

You see a lot of smart guys with dumb women, but you hardly ever see a smart woman with a dumb guy.

--Erica Jong

If you think women are the weaker sex, try pulling the blankets back to your side.

--Stuart Turner

The greatest danger that man faces: woman. The presence of women in the lives of men cause no end of difficulties—from having to field questions like 'Do I look fat in this?' to figuring out the best way to apologize when you don't exactly know what you've done wrong.

--Joshua Piven, David
Borgenicht, and
Ben H. Winters

Now they've actually measured this. The University of Pennsylvania a couple of years ago did a study and discovered that men have the ability to think about absolutely nothing, and still breathe. Women can't do it. Their mind has never stopped. And they don't understand the 'nothing box', and it drives them CRAZY because nothing drives a woman more crazy and makes them feel more irritated than to watch a man doing nothing.

—*theChive*

For every male action there is a female overreaction.

—*theChive*

Part of me loves and respects men so desperately, and part of me thinks they are so embarrassingly incompetent at life and in love. You have to teach them the very basics of emotional literacy. You have to teach them how to be there for you, and part of me feels tender toward them and gentle, and part of me is so afraid of them, afraid of any more violation.

—Anne Lamott

A woman who gives any advantage to a man may expect a lover but will sooner or later find a tyrant.

—Lord Byron

In the duel of sex, woman fights from a dreadnought and man from an open raft.

—H. L. Mencken

The most important thing for a good marriage is to learn how to argue peaceably.

—Anita Ekberg

The domestic life of most classes is relatively shabby, as compared with the éclat of that overt portion of their life that is carried on before the eyes of observers....People therefore habitually screen their private life from observation.

--Thorstein Veblen

A wedding band is the smallest handcuff ever made. Be sure to choose your cell-mate wisely.

—Ged Backland

The husband has to make money first and his wife has to make it last.

—Unknown

Divorce is one of the most financially traumatic things you can go through. Money spent on getting mad or getting even is money wasted.

--Richard Wagner

Don't expect anyone else to support you. Maybe you'll have a trust fund. Maybe you'll have a wealthy spouse. But you never know when either of them might run out.

—Mary Schmich

I haven't reported my missing credit card to the police because whoever stole it is spending less than my wife.

—Ilie Nastase

Even more than the Pill, what has liberated women is that they no longer need to depend on men economically.

—Jane Bryant Quinn

Money may change everything, as Cyndi Lauper sang. But lack of money definitely ruins everything. Financial impotence casts a pall of misery. It keeps you up at night and makes you not want to get up in the morning. It forces you to recede from the world. It eats at your sense of self-worth, your confidence, your energy, and, worst of all, your hope. It is ruinous to relationships, turning spouses against each other in tirades of calumny and recrimination, and even children against parents... To fail—which by many economic standards, a very large number of Americans do—may constitute our great secret national pain, one that is deep and abiding. We are impotent.

—Neal Gabler

The philosopher Plato once said, 'I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing... and that is that I know nothing.'

How did he know that?

His wife told him.

—Brian Crane

The woman knows from living with the abusive man that there are no simple answers. Friends say: 'He's mean.' But she knows many ways in which he has been good to her. Friends say: 'He treats you that way because he can get away with it. I would never let someone treat me that way.' But she knows that the times when she puts her foot down the most firmly, he responds by becoming his angriest and most intimidating. When she stands up to him, he makes her pay for it—sooner or later. Friends say: 'Leave him.' But she knows it won't be that easy. He will promise to change. He'll get friends and relatives to feel sorry for him and pressure her to give him another chance. He'll get severely depressed, causing her to worry whether he'll be all right. And, depending on what style of abuser he is, she may know that he will become dangerous when she tries to leave him. She may even be concerned that he will try to take her children away from her, as some abusers do.

—Lundy Bancroft

Marriage always demands the finest arts of insincerity possible between two human beings.

—Vicki Baum

He considers me just a uterus with legs.

—Mary Beth Whitehead

I harbor ill feelings toward a society, and a clergy, that allows marriage partners to split over the smallest incompatibility, where divorce comes in a multitude of flavors, like Baskin Robbins ice cream, where men and women can blame one another and everything except themselves for matrimony's mess. They look for externals over which they have no control and, fingering them, take no responsibility.

—Robert Dykstra

My divorce came to me as a complete surprise. That's what happens when you haven't been home in eighteen years.

—Lee Trevino

Whenever two human beings spend time together, sooner or later they will probably irritate one another. This is true of best friends, married couples, parents and children, or teachers and students. The question is: How do they respond when friction occurs? There are four basic ways they can react:

- They can internalize the anger and send it downward into a memory bank that never forgets. This creates great pressure within and can even result in disease and other problems.
- They can pout and be rude without discussing the issues. This further irritates the other person and leaves him or her to draw his or her own conclusions about what the problem may be.
- They can blow up and try to hurt the other person. This causes the death of friendships, marriages, homes, and businesses.
- Or they can talk to one another about their feelings, being very careful not to attack the dignity and worth of the other person. This approach often leads to permanent and healthy relationships.

—James C. Dobson

Some of the most dreadful mischiefs that afflict mankind proceed from wine; it is the cause of disease, quarrels, sedition, idleness, aversion to labor, and every species of domestic disorder.

—Fenelon

Alcohol is a very effective dissolving agent. It dissolves families, marriages, friendships, jobs, bank accounts and neurons, but never problems.

—Unknown

Jellinek's disease (alcoholism) is responsible for:

50 percent of all auto fatalities

80 percent of all home violence

30 percent of all suicides

60 percent of all child abuse

65 percent of all drownings

It is estimated that when a woman contracts the disease, her husband leaves her in nine out of ten cases; when a man contracts it, his wife leaves in one out of ten cases.

--Kathleen Whalen
Fitzgerald

Husbands are awkward things to deal with even keeping them in hot water will not make them tender.

—Mary Lorraine Buckley

An arguing couple spiraling into negativity and teetering on the brink of divorce is actually mathematically equivalent to the beginning of a nuclear war.

—Hannah Fry

Much of the lying done by men should be blamed on women: they insist on asking questions.

—Evan Esar

Telling lies is a fault in a boy, an art in a lover, an accomplishment in a bachelor, and second-nature in a married man.

--Helen Rowland

To conceal anything from those to whom I am attached, is not in my nature. I can never close my lips where I have opened my heart.

--Charles Dickens

Honesty has ruined more marriages than infidelity.

--Charles McCabe

There was altogether too much candour in married life; it was an indelicate modern idea, and frequently led to upsets in a household, if not divorce.

--Muriel Spark

The executive who works from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day will be both very successful and fondly remembered by his widow's next husband.

--John M. Capozzi

An employee with a good family life is healthier and more productive.

--Sylvia Sepielli

A good businessman never makes a contract unless he's sure he can carry it through, yet every fool on earth is perfectly willing to sign a marriage contract without considering whether he can live up to it or not.

—Dalton Trumbo

Even if the marriage doesn't last forever, bridesmaids do.

—Christie Hefner

After it's all said and done, don't you want to grow old with your best friend? At the end of the day, that's who you want to share your life and laughter with. Someone who will be there in hard times to hold you tight. Someone who will fight for your honor and support your decisions. Someone who will encourage your dreams and help you to fulfill them.

--Dannika Dark

If a man is talking in the forest and no woman is there to hear him, is he still wrong?

—Robert Glover

An unresolved issue will be like a cancer with the potential to spread into other areas of your relationship, eroding the joy, lightness, love and beauty.

—Joyce Vissell

Domestic violence occurs at all socioeconomic levels.

—Asa Don Brown

One last 'happy' thought: Your marriage will end either in death or divorce. (Think about it!) So well before the 'I do's' (and the eventual tears), why not give both of yourselves a chance for a marriage that can be the best it can be?

—J. Thomas Steele

Love is the thing that enables a woman to sing while she mops up the floor after her husband has walked across it in his barn boots.

—*Hoosier Farmer*

I also became familiar with an entirely new category of people: the unhappily married person. They are everywhere, and they are ten thousand times more depressing than a divorced person. My friend Tim, whose name I've changed, obviously, has gotten more and more depressing since he married his girlfriend of seven years. Tim is the kind of guy who corners you at a party to tell you, vehemently, that marriage is work And that you have to work on it constantly. And that going to couples' therapy is not only normal but something that everyone needs to do. Tim has a kind of manic, cult-y look in his eye from paying thousands of dollars to a marriage counselor. He is convinced that his daily work on his marriage, and his acknowledgement that it is basically a living hell, is modern. The result is that he has helped to relieve me of any romantic notions I had about marriage.

—Mindy Kaling

Marriage is the tomb of love.

—Giacomo Casanova

We have been together for 40 years, married for 36. There have been three times in our relationship when we were unable to resolve an issue on our own. We used all the skill that we have and yet it was still unresolved. In those three times we sought professional help because there was a blind spot for each of us. The therapist was able to listen to both of us and help us come to a place of resolution that we both felt good about. I feel very grateful for that help. Most times we have been able to work things through on our own. Sometimes we can clear the issue in a matter of a few minutes, sometimes an hour and sometimes it can take several days. But we still keep working on it until we both say that we feel complete, we understand our own part and responsibility in the issue rather than simply blaming each other, are willing to go on, and there is an even deeper connection and sometimes even humor to the situation. In working each issue through to completion we have been able to retain a beautiful lightness in our relationship that we both cherish.

—Joyce Vissell

By marrying too soon, many individuals sacrifice their chance to struggle through this purgatory of solitude and search toward a greater sense of self-confidence. They glance at the world outside the family and with hardly a second thought grasp anxiously for a partner. In marriage they seek a substitute for the security of the family of origin and an escape from aloneness. What they do not realize is that moving so quickly from one family to another, they make it easy to transfer to the new marriage all their difficult experiences in the family of origin.

—Augustus Y. Napier

In the reflected gaze of his (her husband's) steady admiration, she saw the face of the girl he had fallen in love with.

—Doris Kearns Goodwin

Arguments are healthy. They clear the air.

—John Deacon

Marriage teaches you loyalty, forbearance, self-restraint, meekness, and a great many other things you wouldn't need if you had stayed single.

—Jimmy Townsend

Studies found that women with a college level education were most likely to be married for longer than those without—nearly 80% of college-educated women had marriages that lasted 20+ years. In comparison, barely 40% of women with a high school education or less, remained married for that length.

—*theChive*

How strange is the lot of us mortals. Each of us is here for a brief sojourn for what purpose he knows not, though he senses it. But without deeper reflection one knows from daily life that one exists for other people.

—Albert Einstein

There is room in the smallest cottage for a happy loving pair.

—Friedrich Schiller

My husband gave me a broom one Christmas. This wasn't right. No one can tell me it was meant kindly.

—Grace Paley

People who live together naturally catch the looks and air of one another and without having one feature alike, they contract a something in the whole countenance which strikes one as a resemblance.

—Frances Burney

Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is threads, hundreds of tiny threads which sew people together through the years.

—Simone Signoret

THE EFFECTS OF DIVORCE

Divorce has become a reality that affects more than two million adults and more than one million children each year. Yes—all children will be affected by divorce. Does it need to be negative? No! Absolutely Not! Divorce does have short-term and long-term negative effects on some children's adjustment. The main difficulties associated with divorce are:

1. conflict between parents
2. parent depression
3. lack of social support and
4. financial stress

In preschoolers, divorce may trigger regression, fretfulness, bewilderment, aggression and need.

In school age children, there is sadness, grieving, fear, anger, feelings of deprivation, fantasies of reconciliation, body complaints and loyalty conflicts.

In adolescents, there are many painful feelings: how will their own future marriages work out, worry over financial matters, loyalty conflicts, individualization from parents and the awareness of parents as sexual beings.

Healthy adjustment occurs when children are made to feel that they are in no way responsible for the divorce and that the divorce is final. Skills in coping and conflict resolution need to be well-developed for a child to adjust. Eventually, they won't blame anyone, but will instead work on problem solving and staying involved in a social support system.

Children have a positive adjustment to divorce when the custodial parent has low stress and is psychologically healthy. The custodial parent needs to be firm and consistent in parenting; and the child needs to feel that his relationship with the custodial parent is positive.

Involvement of the non-custodial parent has a direct effect on the children's adjustment when the involvement directly affects the well-being of the custodial parent rather than the child.

Emotional and financial support by the non-custodial parent can reduce the strain experienced by the custodial parent and increase their parenting competence. This increased competence directly affects a child's adjustment.

Children will do well when the parents are mentally healthy and have a support system to help them cope with the difficult times. Nobody needs to do it alone. Divorce can be a growth-producing experience. Some of the divorced parent's dreams may have died, but the parent has not.

—Dr. Phil Martin R. Textor

In interviews I gave early on in my career, I was quoted as saying it was possible to have it all: a dynamic job, marriage, and children. In some respects, I was a social adolescent.

—Jessica Savitch

According to a Pew research Center study, 50 percent of married or cohabiting women report doing more child care than their male partners, whereas just 4 percent of men do more than their female partners. This disparity has a devastating effect on women's careers. Researchers refer to the gap between male and female wages and seniority as the 'motherhood penalty,' because it is almost entirely explained by the lower earnings and status of women with children.

—Andrew Moravcsik

Despite their superior performance in college, surprisingly few women reach the pinnacle of professional success: They account for only 21 percent of surgeons, 20 percent of law-firm partners, and 9 percent of equity-fund managers. The nearly impossible expectations facing professional women pose a stark dilemma for ambitious young people planning two-career marriages.

—Andrew Moravcsik

Pew polls show that 42 percent of Americans now view the 'ideal' family for child-rearing as one in which Dad works full-time and Mom works part-time; about half prefer that she not work at all. Only 8 percent believe children are better off with Dad at home. About two-thirds of Americans believe that a married man should be able to support his family financially, yet only a third say the same about a woman.

—Andrew Moravcsik

Until the Second World War, it was unthinkable for a married woman of the working or middle class to disgrace her husband by working after marriage, because her employment indicated that he was a poor provider.

--Sandra Scarr

The all-American work ethic, destructive enough by itself, also packs a gender double standard that strip-mines the natural resources of both parents. It has taught us that as their earnings and success increase, men become 'more manly,' while women become 'less feminine.' This perverse cultural dynamic gives fathers an incentive to stay away from their families and kill themselves at work, while coercing mothers to limit their career commitment, which in turn limits their wages and shortchanges their families.

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

Women's success in moving into the workplace on equal terms with men counts as one of the greatest advances in human history. But in focusing on women's progress, let's not forget that men and women often share a household—and a life. No man is an island. No woman is either.

--Megan McArdle

I do not believe fathers love their children any less than mothers do, but men do seem more likely to choose their job at a cost to their family, while women seem more likely to choose their family at a cost to their job.

--Anne-Marie Slaughter

A person's character is but half formed till after wedlock.

--Charles Simmons

Marriage, in what is evidently its most popular version, is now on the one hand an intimate 'relationship' involving (ideally) two successful careerists in the same bed, and on the other hand a sort of private political system in which rights and interests must be constantly asserted and defended. Marriage, in other words, has now taken the form of divorce: a prolonged and impassioned negotiation as to how things shall be divided. During their understandably temporary association, the 'married' couple will typically consume a large quantity of merchandise and a large portion of each other.

The modern household is the place where the consumptive couple do their consuming. Nothing productive is done there. Such work as is done there is done at the expense of the resident couple or family, and to the profit of suppliers of energy and household technology. For entertainment, the inmates consume television or purchase other consumable diversion elsewhere.

There are, however, still some married couples who understand themselves as belonging to their marriage, to each other, and to their children. What they have they have in common, and so, to them, helping each other does not seem merely to damage their ability to compete against each other. To them, 'mine' is not so powerful or necessary a pronoun as 'ours.'

This sort of marriage usually has at its heart a household that is to some extent productive. The couple, that is, makes around itself a household economy that involves the work of both wife and husband, that gives them a measure of economic independence and self-employment, a measure of freedom, as well as a common ground and a common satisfaction.

—Wendell Berry

I lost a good friend and drinking buddy this past weekend in a tragic accident. He got his finger caught in a wedding ring.

—Unknown

Every so often I would look at my women friends who were happily married and didn't cook, and I would always find myself wondering how they did it. Would anyone love me if I couldn't cook? I always thought cooking was part of the package: Step right up, it's Rachel Samstat, she's bright, she's funny and she can cook!

—Nora Ephron

I cook to inspire my husband to pay attention to me.

—Sonia Rumzi

It's more pressure on women to - if they marry or partner with someone, to partner with the right person. Because you cannot have a full career and a full life at home with your children if you are also doing all of the housework and child care.

—Sheryl Sandberg

There is one thing more exasperating than a wife who can cook and won't, and that's a wife who can't cook and will.

—Robert Frost

If it's a choice between cooking or cleaning or looking good, go get that facial. No man ever made love to a woman because she kept a clean house.

--Joan Rivers

Whoever heard of a man getting a divorce from a woman who was a good cook?

--Kin Hubbard

The first want of man is his dinner, and the second is his girl.

--John Adams

Each home has been reduced to the bare essentials -- to barer essentials than most primitive people would consider possible. Only one woman's hands to feed the baby, answer the telephone, turn off the gas under the pot that is boiling over, soothe the older child who has broken a toy, and open both doors at once. She is a nutritionist, a child psychologist, an engineer, a production manager, an expert buyer, all in one. Her husband sees her as free to plan her own time, and envies her; she sees him as having regular hours and envies him.

—Margaret Mead

A dress that zips up the back will bring a husband and wife together.
—James H. Boren

I got a sewing machine for my husband! Good trade, huh?
—*PictureQuotes.com*

Tell your husbands any bad news when everything is calm, not just as they come through the door.
—Indra Devi

Ladies, if a man says he'll fix it, he will. There's no need to remind him every six months about it.
—Bill Murray

The most important phase of living with a person is respect for that person as an individual.
—Millicent Carey
McIntosh

The road to success is filled with women pushing their husbands along.
--Lord Thomas Robert
Dewar

The secrets of success are a good wife and a steady job. My wife told me.
--Howard Nemerov

Powerful men often succeed through the help of their wives. Powerful women only succeed in spite of their husbands.
--Linda Lee-Potter

The piece of advice that drives me crazy, is, 'Never go to bed angry.' In fact, sometimes a good night's sleep is exactly what you need to think more clearly and fight right.
—Andrea Syrtash

My wife was afraid of the dark... then she saw me naked and now she's afraid of the light.
—Rodney Dangerfield

I began to think maybe it was true that when you were married and had children it was like being brainwashed, and afterward you went about as numb as a slave in a totalitarian state.

—Sylvia Plath

All men make mistakes—husbands just find out about them sooner.

-- Red Skelton

The consuming desire of most human beings is deliberately to plant their whole life in the hands of some other person. I would describe this method of searching for happiness as immature. Development of character consists solely in moving toward self-sufficiency.

--Quentin Crisp

Living with a saint is more grueling than being one.

—Christian Nestell
Bovee

Love—a temporary insanity curable by marriage.

--Ambrose Bierce

Love is often a consequence of marriage.

--Moliere

Love is so much better when you are not married.

--Maria Callas

It's a funny kind of month, October. For the really keen cricket fan it's when you discover that your wife left you in May.

—Denis Norden

It may interest those who wish to marry to know that the luckiest day and month for marriages is by superstitious people held to be the thirty-first of December.

—Charles Dickens

Love is a mental disorder that makes a girl eager to give up seven hours in an office to slave fourteen hours in a house.

--Unknown

Sitting next to you doing absolutely nothing, means absolutely everything to me.

—Unknown

Boy meets girl. Boy marries girl. Boy and girl angst over which family they visit at Thanksgiving and which one in December and whether or not it's best to serve turkey or goose for the family feast. When first faced with the reality that the family you married into does things differently, the warmth of tradition can take on a chill.

--Marge Kennedy

The word love has by no means the same sense for both sexes, and this is one cause of the serious misunderstandings that divide them.

--Simone de Beauvoir

As you get older, you realize it's work. It's that fine line between love and companionship. But passionate love? I'd love to know how to make that last.

--Tracey Ullman

When you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. It is an impossibility. It is even a lie to pretend to. And yet this is exactly what most of us demand. We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, of relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We are afraid it will never return. We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity - in freedom, in the sense that the dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in the same pattern.

The only real security is not in owning or possessing, not in demanding or expecting, not in hoping, even. Security in a relationship lies neither in looking back to what was in nostalgia, nor forward to what it might be in dread or anticipation, but living in the present relationship and accepting it as it is now. Relationships must be like islands, one must accept them for what they are here and now, within their limits - islands, surrounded and interrupted by the sea, and continually visited and abandoned by the tides.

--Anne Morrow
Lindbergh

To plant a seed in one's heart...
To root it in love...
To nourish it with time spent together...
Yields a blossom
that will flourish forever.

--Unknown

The whole idea of love is scary—so is being with someone for the rest of your life and being happy with them for the rest of your life. There's lots of research to suggest that, actually, love's not really that simple.

—Aziz Ansari

If equal affection cannot be, let the more loving one be me.

—W. H. Auden

Passionate love, I take it, rarely lasts long, and is very troublesome while it does last. Mutual esteem is very much more valuable.

—Anthony Trollope

I love Black men for the incredible strength in the face of the rage, the racism and the rancor they must face on a daily basis. Movie and media images of Black men in trouble and in a crisis permeate our lives while every day, all across the country, millions of Black men go out and do what they do like nobody else on the planet: raise their children, serve their communities, love their women. Like millions of Black women, I know the special joy of marriage to a strong Black man with whom you share the same struggle. Only a Black man can truly understand the fight and the plight of our people. For me, that fight is made infinitely easier because of David Justice. When I see him across the room, or wake up and see his face, I'm always renewed because I never have to explain myself or feelings to him. He understands my pain because it is his pain; he understands my struggle because it is his struggle. What bond can be more powerful? What love can be more profound?

--Halle Berry

One can no longer live with people: it is too hideous and nauseating. Owners and owned, they are like the two sides of a ghastly disease.

—David Herbert
Lawrence

Jealousy is the opposite of maintaining and growing in a relationship. Jealousy includes elements of fear, anger, suspicion, and control that have no place in a mature relationship.

—Darrel Ray

A friend married is a friend lost.

--Henrik Ibsen

Lust is what keeps you wanting to do it even when you have no desire to be with each other. Love is what makes you want to be with each other even when you have no desire to do it.

—Judith Viorst

A man's friendships are, like his will, invalidated by marriage—but they are also no less invalidated by the marriage of his friends.

--Samuel Butler

For it is mutual trust, even more than mutual interest that holds human associations together. Our friends seldom profit us but they make us feel safe. Marriage is a scheme to accomplish exactly that same end.

—H. L. Mencken

All married couples should learn the art of battle as they should learn the art of making love. Good battle is objective and honest—never vicious or cruel. Good battle is healthy and constructive, and brings to a marriage the principles of equal partnership.

—Ann Landers

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

—Lewis Grizzard

'There are so many ways in which people who are married are given more financial benefits' says Bella DePaulo. Relationships don't alter the basic price of services, but it does give couples one competitive advantage: Their expenses are cut in half. Two people can split the bill on housing, utilities, groceries and social events.

—Kellie Ell

An actress who has the gift of swaying the emotions of an audience, of compelling tribute of tears, or of moving the public to joyous merriment, cannot always be satisfied to set aside her whole career, in the work that she loves, simply because she is married.

—Billie Burke

People still want to marry rich. Girls especially....It's simple. Don't date poor boys. Go where the rich are....You don't have to be rich to go where they go.

--Sheilah Graham

It is better for a woman to marry a man who loves her than a man she loves.
--Arab Proverb

If thou wouldst marry wisely, marry thine equal.
--Ovid

To marry a woman for her beauty is like buying a house for its paint.
--Josh Billings

Girls must be encouraged to go on (after college), to make a life plan. It has been shown that girls with this kind of commitment are less eager to rush into early marriage....Most of them marry, of course, but on a much more mature basis. Their marriages then are not a escape but a commitment shared by two people that becomes part of their commitment to themselves and society.
--Betty Naomi Friedan

Humble wedlock is far better than proud virginity.
—St. Augustine

For any man to match above his rank, is but to sell his liberty.
--Philip Massinger

From my experience, not one in twenty marries the first love; we build statues of snow, and weep to see them melt.
--Sir Walter Scott

If you wish to ruin yourself, marry a rich wife.
—Jules Michelet

If you would have a good wife marry one who has been a good daughter.
--Thomas Fuller

We are foolish, and without excuse foolish, in speaking of the superiority of one sex to the other, as if they could be compared in similar things! Each has what the other has not; each completes the other; they are in nothing alike; and the happiness and perfection of both depend on each asking and receiving from the other!
--John Ruskin

The silliest woman can manage a clever man; but it needs a very clever woman to manage a fool.
--Rudyard Kipling

The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing—and then marry him.

--Cher

There wouldn't be half as much fun in the world if it weren't for children and men, and there ain't a mite of difference between them under the skin.

--Ellen Glasgow

Men are always doomed to be duped, not so much by the arts of the (female) sex as by their own imaginations. They are always wooing goddesses and marrying mere mortals.

--Washington Irving

Men and women cannot solve one another's loneliness.

--Anatole Broyard

Advice to persons about to marry.—'Don't.'

--Henry Mayhew

Never marry a man who hates his mother, because he'll end up hating you.

--Jill Bennett

God did not make woman from man's head, that she should not rule over him; nor from his feet, that she should not be his slave; but from his side, that she should be near his heart.

—*Talmud*

When a bachelor falls in love, it leads to marriage; when a married man falls in love, it leads to divorce.

—Evan Esar

Men are nicer to the women they don't marry.

--Belle Livingstone

You are looking for a rich husband. At your age I looked for hardship, danger, horror and death, that I might feel the life in me more intensely. I did not let the fear of death govern my life; and my reward was, I had my life. You are going to let the fear of poverty govern your life and your reward will be that you will eat, but you will not live.

--George Bernard Shaw

Getting divorced just because you don't love a man is almost as silly as getting married just because you do.

—Zsa Zsa Gabor

It is a pity that marriage is the only medicine that has so far been discovered to cure a love affair.

--Ed Howe

There is an advantage to long engagements: the longer a man is engaged, the less time he has to be married.

—Evan Esar

No girl who is afraid to stay home alone in the evening should ever get married.

--Ed Howe

Many a man seeks to marry a rich girl so that his wife may have everything she wants.

—Evan Esar

Many a bachelor never marries until he meets the right amount.

—Evan Esar

A fortune hunter is a man without any dollars who is trying to find a rich woman without any sense.

—Evan Esar

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

Every girl waits for the right man to come along, but in the meantime she gets married.

—Evan Esar

By the time a woman is mature enough to choose a proper mate, she has already been married for years.

—Evan Esar

If a man doesn't marry his first love, he is apt to regret it—also if he does.

—Evan Esar

There is no get-rich-quick scheme equal to a poor girl marrying a rich man.

--Ed Howe

I must marry—if only to get to bed at a reasonable hour.

--Benjamin Constant

Generally the only one who can cure a lovesick young couple is a Doctor of Divinity.

--Unknown

It is always incomprehensible to a man that a woman should ever refuse an offer of marriage. A man always imagines a woman to be ready for anybody who asks her.

—Jane Austen

Single doesn't always mean lonely, and relationship doesn't always mean happy.

—Ged Backland

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

—Rita Rudner

The kind of man who thinks that helping with the dishes is beneath him will also think that helping with the baby is beneath him, and then he certainly is not going to be a very successful father.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

One has to be able to count if only so that, at fifty, one doesn't marry a girl of twenty.

--Maxim Gorky

Never marry when under the guise you need to 'see if it'll work', but rather marry because in your mind you want to make it work.

—Criss Jami

Is it too much to ask that women be spared the daily struggle for superhuman beauty in order to offer it to the caresses of a sub-humanly ugly mate?

--Germaine Greer

Couples tended to be of roughly equivalent personal attractiveness, though of course factors such as money often seemed to secure a partner of significantly better looks than oneself.

—Robert Galbraith

A woman knows she's wearing the right dress, when her man wants to take it off.
—Robert Paul

Maybe one of the most heartening findings from the psychology of pleasure is there's more to looking good than your physical appearance. If you like somebody, they look better to you. This is why spouses in happy marriages tend to think that their husband or wife looks much better than anyone else thinks that they do.
—Paul Bloom

Here lies my wife; here let her lie!
Now she's at rest, and so am I.

--John Dryden

The desire to die begins with loneliness, a thwarted need for inclusion and connection. That explains why suicide rates rise by a third on the continuum from married to never been married. It also accords with the fact that divorced people suffer the greatest suicide risk, while twins have reduced risk and mothers of small children have close to the lowest risk. A mother of six has six times the protection of her childless counterpart....She may die of work and worry, but not of self-harm.
--Thomas Joiner

Widows are divided into two classes; the bereaved and the relieved.
--Victor Robinson

He that outlives a wife whom he has long loved, sees himself disjoined from the only mind that has the same hopes and fears and interest...The continuity of being is lacerated.
—Samuel Johnson

Death is the end of a lifetime, not the end of a relationship.
—Mitch Albom

More than death, one fears the utter isolation that accompanies it. We try to go through life two by two, but each one of us must die alone—no one can die our death with us or for us. The shunning of the dying by the living prefigures final absolute abandonment.
—Irvin D. Yalom

SOME WAYS TO HELP A GRIEVING SPOUSE

1. Assign top priority to your marriage relationship.
2. Cultivate transparency, openness, and honesty.
3. Accept the pain that you feel. Be willing to share it and to listen to your spouse's expression of the pain he or she is feeling.
4. Be patient with your spouse and with yourself. Recognize that your spouse is probably not at the same place in the grief process as you, and that is okay.
5. Don't expect your spouse to be your only source of healing.
6. Keep working at communicating. Give special attention to your affection for each other. Learn and practice gestures of love. Remember to stay in touch physically; the importance of human touching and hugging is hard to overestimate.
7. Allow or create space in your relationship. Everyone is entitled to a degree of privacy with his feelings, including his grief.
8. Allow yourselves to enjoy life and each other. Be willing to laugh together, as well as to cry together. Work at finding some fun things to do together.
9. Help each other to remember that life is more than this child who has died. As important as this child is to you, and as much as you feel pain over his or her death, your marriage relationship involves far more than this child.

—Howard Cupp

TO MY HUSBAND

My love, these past few months
Seem to have paralyzed us
In pain and anguish,
And I know, in that state,
The flow of communication becomes
stilted.

The love we have and share
Is forever, darling.
But I realize that you have felt,
As have I, a separateness in our
grief.

It's alright, you know, dear.
I guess it is the nature of a loss so
devastating
That, no matter how we try to

comfort one another
Along the strange path of grieving,
We sometimes feel so alone.

We have done marvelously, my love.
We talked, cried, and remembered
our son
With tears and smiles.
I know we will laugh again,
My dearest beloved.
We will laugh again—I promise.

—Molly Murphy

In the United States 12 to 18 year-olds are regarded as a population with increasing risk for both attempted and completed suicides. The suicidal rate for this age group is greater in the United States than in most other countries. It is more frequent among boys than girls, higher among non-white males, urban dwellers, college students, professional groups and American Indians. Marriage increases the risk (1.6 times more) of completed suicides in adolescents. Most of the married suicide victims, however, are childless.

—Yosef Hakimi, M.D.

Simple math suggests that roughly one out of every two of us will suffer the loss of our spouse, our life partner. This reality is all but assured. And yet, most of us arrive at that point unprepared for such grief.

—*Daily Herald* Editorial

Of all ghosts, the ghosts of our old loves are the worst.

—Arthur Conan Doyle

Part of being a good husband and father is being able to listen, be humble and compromise. It's not about dominance and power.

—John Legend

When marrying, ask yourself this question: Do you believe that you will be able to converse well with this person into your old age? Everything else in marriage is transitory.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

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

--Oscar Wilde

Even in the common affairs of life, in love, friendship, and marriage, how little security have we when we trust our happiness in the hands of others!

--William Hazlitt

Grief can take care of itself, but to get the full value of a joy you must have somebody to divide it with.

--Mark Twain

If you want happiness for an hour—
take a nap.

If you want happiness for a day—
go fishing.

If you want happiness for a month—
get married.

If you want happiness for a year—
inherit a fortune.

If you want happiness for a lifetime—
help someone else.

--Chinese Proverb

The first recipe for happiness is: Avoid too lengthy meditations on the past.

--André Maurois

I don't believe that happiness is a lost art; I don't believe it is an art at all. It is simply that the accepted symbols of happiness have changed. In the nineteenth century, a woman accepted her lot as a happy one if...

She had a husband who didn't beat her every day.

Her children were a credit to her.

She was allowed to join in the conversation at dinner—at least until the port arrived and the talk became interesting.

Now—it would seem—for a woman to be happy, she must have...

A career...a spin dryer...diamonds...TV...a mink-lined mackintosh...a lover...an electric toaster...good health...pep-pills...and sedatives...two cars (at least)...Jane Fonda's face and Simone de Beauvoir's intellect...a working knowledge of child psychology...a child...a husband who beats her every Friday.

--Mary Quant

To live happily with other people, ask of them only what they can give.

—Tristan Bernard

Although Freud said happiness is composed of love and work, reality often forces us to choose love or work.

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

We convince ourselves that life will be better after we get married, have a baby, then another.

Then we are frustrated that the kids aren't old enough, and we'll be more content when they are.

After that, we're frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with.

We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage.

We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our partner gets his or her act together when we get a nicer car, are able to go on a nice holiday, when we retire.

The truth is, there's no better time to be happy than right now. If not now, when?

Your life will always be filled with challenges.

It's best to admit this to yourself and decide to be happy anyway.

This perspective has helped me to see that there is no way to happiness. Happiness is the way.

So, treasure every moment that you have and treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time...and remember that time waits for no one. So, stop waiting until you lose ten pounds, until you gain ten pounds, until you have kids, until your kids leave the house, until you start work, until you retire, until you get married, until you get divorced, until Friday night, until Sunday morning, until you get a new car or home, until your car or home is paid off, until spring, until summer, until winter, until your song comes on, until you've had a drink.... there is no better time than right now to be happy.

Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

Work like you don't need money,

Love like you've never been hurt,

And dance like no one's watching.

—Robert Westerburg

Never laugh at your wife's choices. You're one of them.

—Internet Meme

Combining paid employment with marriage and motherhood creates safeguards for emotional well-being. Nothing is certain in life, but generally the chances of happiness are greater if one has multiple areas of interest and involvement. To juggle is to diminish the risk of depression, anxiety, and unhappiness.

--Faye J. Crosby

Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance. If the dispositions of the parties are ever so well known to each other, or ever so similar before-hand, it does not advance their felicity in the least. They always contrive to grow sufficiently unlike afterwards to have their share of vexation; and it is better to know as little as possible of the defects of the person with whom you are to pass your life.

--Jane Austen

Nobody bores any man as much as an unhappy female.

—Moss Hart

I believe the recipe for happiness to be just enough money to pay the monthly bills you acquire, a little surplus to give you confidence, a little too much work each day, enthusiasm for your work, a substantial share of good health, a couple of real friends, and a wife and children to share life's beauty with you.

--J. Kenfield Morley

Every roof is agreeable to the eye, until it is lifted; then we find tragedy and moaning women, and hard-eyed husbands.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The family you come from isn't as important as the family you're going to have.

--Ring Lardner

Claudia...remembered that when she'd had her first baby she had realised with astonishment that the perfect couple consisted of a mother and child and not, as she had always supposed, a man and woman.

--Alice Thomas Ellis

You've just got to have a sense of respect for the person you have children with. Anger doesn't help anybody. Ultimately you have to say forgiveness is important, and honoring what you had together is important. But it's easy to say and harder to do.

—Nicole Kidman

Crime doesn't take a holiday. It changes costume for the season, and Christmas is the season for domestic violence. Too much pressure to deliver the perfect gift, and not enough money. Too little to say, and too much alcohol encouraging confessions. Never enough love or imagination to deliver the dream.

--Peter Kirby

The longest absence is less perilous to love than the terrible trials of incessant proximity.

—Edna St. Vincent
Millay

There is no observation more frequently made by such as employ themselves in surveying the conduct of mankind, than that marriage, though the dictate of nature, and the institution of Providence, is yet very often the cause of misery, and that those who enter into that state can seldom forbear to express their repentance, and their envy of those whom either chance or caution hath withheld from it.

—Samuel Johnson

The guarantee of safety in a battering relationship can never be based upon a promise from the perpetrator, no matter how heartfelt. Rather, it must be based upon the self-protective capability of the victim. Until the victim has developed a detailed and realistic contingency plan and has demonstrated her ability to carry it out, she remains in danger of repeated abuse.

—Judith Lewis
Herman

In an average month, 50 women are shot to death by intimate partners in the U.S. And more than half of all women killed by intimate partners in the U.S. are killed with guns.

—*everytownresearch.org*.
(2015)

There's no such thing as equality between the sexes—whoever heard of a housewife retiring?

--Unknown

The best way to get most husbands to do something is to suggest that perhaps they're too old to do it.

—Ann Bancroft

Allow everyone to look at life and aging differently, even if it is your spouse. We become less and less alike as we age and become more distinct and unique as we get older. Even with married couples, it is OK to grow differently. Just get back together at the end of the day to discuss what you have learned and have been doing.

—Dr. Bill Thomas

People our age can still enjoy an active, passionate sex life--provided we get cable or that dish thing.

—Jack Jacoby

Given the choice between loneliness and death, it would take me a fraction of a second to decide. But I don't want to be alone either...Let us both live forever, in sickness and health, feeble-minded, doddering, toothless, liver spotted, dim-sighted, hallucinating.

—Don DeLillo

DO NOT ASK ME TO REMEMBER

Do not ask me to remember,
Don't try to make me understand,
Let me rest and know you're with me,
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.
I'm confused beyond your concept,
I am sad and sick and lost.
All I know is that I need you
To be with me at all cost.
Do not lose your patience with me,
Do not scold or curse or cry.
I can't help the way I'm acting,
Can't be different though I try.
Just remember that I need you,
That the best of me is gone,
Please don't fail to stand beside me,
Love me 'til my life is done.

—Owen Darnell

Grandchildren don't make a man feel old; it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother.

—G. Norman Collie

Time turns the old days to derision,
Our loves into corpses or wives;
And marriage and death and division
Make barren our lives.

—Algernon Charles
Swinburne

The older you get, the more you realize you're drifting toward a direction, and sometimes your significant other drifts into an opposite direction. You can't blame anybody for it.

—Dido Armstrong

I learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, work to improve your marriage.

—*seniorresource.com*

When marrying, one should ask oneself this question: Do you believe that you will be able to converse well with this woman into your old age?

—Friedrich Wilhelm
Nietzsche

You are not permitted to kill a woman who has wronged you, but nothing forbids you to reflect that she is growing older every minute. You are avenged 1440 times a day.

—Ambrose Bierce

The one who loves the least, controls the relationship.

—Robert Anthony

People who are not in love fail to understand how an intelligent man can suffer because of a very ordinary woman. This is like being surprised that anyone should be stricken with cholera because of a creature so insignificant as the comma bacillus.

—Marcel Proust

Any girl who wants to be sure she will never be unemployed should marry a farmer.

--Unknown

Farming's a piece of fun for you. It's a life sentence for me.

--Nina Bawden

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

He who marries a wife reared on the land marries strength and purity and compassion.

—Henry Ward Beecher

Dad, did you know. In other countries you don't know who your wife is until you get married?

It's like that everywhere, Son.

—Internet Meme

What I think we don't really appreciate these days is that 200 years ago, people literally looked to marriage for food, clothing and shelter. It was precarious to live if you weren't married. We need marriage less in those ways than we did before. Our expectations are lower in those ways, but they're higher in emotional and psychological sorts of ways.

—Professor Eli Finkel

Adultery has existed since marriage was invented, yet this extremely common act remains poorly understood. Around the globe, the responses I get when I mention infidelity range from bitter condemnation to resigned acceptance to cautious compassion to outright enthusiasm. In Paris, the topic brings an immediate frisson to a dinner conversation, and I note how many people have been on both sides of the story. In Bulgaria, a group of women I met seem to view their husbands' philandering as unfortunate but inevitable. In Mexico, women I spoke with probably see the rise of female affairs as a form of social rebellion against the chauvinistic culture that has long made room for men to have 'two homes,' *la casa grande y la casa chica*—one for the family and one for the mistress. Infidelity may be ubiquitous, but the way we make meaning of it—how we define it, experience it, and talk about it—is ultimately linked to particular time and place where the drama unfolds.

—Esther Perel

Affairs are not what they used to be because marriage is not what it used to be. For much of history, and in many parts of the world today, marriage was a pragmatic alliance that insured economic stability and social cohesion...Marriage is no longer an economic enterprise but rather a companionate one—a free-choice engagement between two individuals, based not on duty and obligation but on love and affection. Never before have our expectations of marriage taken on such epic proportions. We still want everything the traditional family was meant to provide—security, respectability, property, and children—but now we also want our partner to love us, to desire us, to be interested in us. We should be best friends and trusted confidants, and passionate lovers to boot.

—Esther Perel

Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave.

—Martin Luther

Within the small circle of the wedding band are vastly contradictory ideals. We want our chosen one to offer stability, safety, predictability, and dependability. And we want that very same person to supply awe, mystery, adventure, and risk. We expect comfort and edge, familiarity and novelty, continuity and surprise. We have conjured up a new Olympus, where love will remain unconditional, intimacy enthralling, and sex oh so exciting, with one person, for the long haul. In the long haul keeps getting longer.

We also live in an age of entitlement; personal fulfillment, we believe, is our due. In the West, sex is a right linked to our individuality, are self-actualization, and our freedom. Thus, most of us in our arrive at the altar after years of sexual nomadism. By the time we tie the knot, we've hooked up, dated, cohabited, and broken up. We used to get married and have sex for the first time. The conscious choice we make rein in our sexual freedom is a testament to the seriousness of our commitment. By turning our back on other loves, we confirm the uniqueness of our 'significant other': 'I have found The One. I can stop looking.' Our desire for others is supposed to miraculously evaporate, vanquished by the power of this singular attraction.

—Esther Perel

The two best anti-poverty programs are work and marriage.

—James Talent

My predecessor... asked a question, on a couple of questionnaires, that I love: 'Who would you call in the middle of the night if you were sick or scared? Some people couldn't list anyone. For some, though, it was a child; for some people it was a friend. For many it was their spouse. You can fight like cats and dogs, but if you have a sense of 'If I ever need my husband, he is there for me,' that's huge.

—Robert Waldinger,
M.D.

The Most Influential Power Couple in History? Adam and Eve were responsible, literally or metaphorically, for—in no particular order—the subservience of women; the pain of childbirth; the concepts of sin, shame, and clothing; a lot of great art-work; and oh yes, procreation, without which there would have been no one else to influence.

—Lisa Grunwald

It is a mistake for a taciturn, serious-minded woman to marry a jovial man, but not for a serious-minded man to marry a lighthearted woman.

—Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

Dear Diary, 24th day of September. The stars and my family align to make my life black and miserable. My mother seeks to make me a fine lady—dumb, docile and accomplished—I must take lady-lessons and keep my mouth closed. My father, the toad, conspires to sell me like cheese to some lack-wit seeking a wife.

—13-Year-Old Catherine
'Birdy' (1290 A.D.)
[Karen Cushman]

If I ever marry, it will be on a sudden impulse—as a man shoots himself.

—H. L. Mencken

Marry your son when you will, but your daughter when you can.

—Benjamin Franklin

Powerful, debilitating, passionate love comes only with a girlfriend—not with a wife.

—Unknown

One of the stories that...must be among the most popular extant, concerns the old man explaining the secret of seventy years of serene, fight-free married life. "Driving home from our honeymoon," is the old man's story, "my mare stumbled. 'That's once,' I noted. Then it stumbled again. I said grimly, 'That's twice.' When that mare stumbled a third time, I just naturally pulled out my gun and shot that mare dead. My new wife got mighty riled about all this and bawled me out plenty. I just sat there quiet till she ran down. Then I said, 'That's once!' Son, I ain't had a bit of trouble with her since."

—Bennett Cerf

'How long are you going to let your wife henpeck you?' sneered the companion of a typical Mr. Milquetoast. 'How's for reasserting your mastery of your own home?' Milquetoast strode into his apartment and hollered, 'What time's dinner?' 'Seventy-three, like always,' answered his wife without thinking, but she recoiled when he announced, 'Nothing doing! Tonight it's seven sharp. And I want a steak, not that canned slop you usually serve me. And put out my dinner jacket. I'm going to take that little blonde in my office out dancing.'

Mrs. Milquetoast froze with astonishment. Drunk with power, her husband continued, 'And when I'm ready to have my black tie fixed in a neat little bow, do you know who's going to tie it?'

Mrs. Milquetoast recovered her voice. 'I certainly do,' she announced grimly. 'The man from the Riverside Funeral Parlor.'

—Bennett Cerf

10 HUSBANDS WHO ARE MORE TO BE PITIED THAN CENSORED:

- The husband who discovered that, though his wife sure could dish it out, she couldn't cook it.
- The husband whose wife told him to pull in his stomach—after he already had.
- The husband returned for credit a book entitled *How to Be Master in Your Own Home*, explaining sheepishly, my wife won't let me keep it.
- The husband's wife made him drink 30 cups of coffee a day to cure his dreadful snoring. After six months she boasted, 'He Never snores at all anymore. He just percolates.'
- The husband who was caught shaving at the border of Central Park Lake. A cop protested, 'Haven't you got a bathroom of your own?' 'I certainly have,' answered the husband bitterly. 'I also have a wife and four daughters.'
- The husband whose neighbor boasted, 'I got a cute little cocker puppy for my wife this morning.' 'Gosh,' sighed the husband, 'I wish I could make a trade like that.'
- The husband whose son, a freshman at college, reported, 'I've landed my first part in a varsity show. I play a man who's been married for 20 years.' 'Good work, son,' enthused Father. 'Keep this up and first thing you know they'll be giving you a speaking part.'
- The husband who brought his boss home for dinner, explaining, 'You're about to meet the finest little helpmate, the swellest cook, the best little housekeeper a man ever had—that is, of course, if she's home.'
- The husband whose wife was so concerned about his happiness that she hired three detectives to discover the reason for it.
- The husband who reported this division of his income: 40% for food, 30% for shelter, and 50% for his wife's clothing and amusement. But that makes 120%,' protested his accountant. 'You don't have to tell me,' sighed the husband. 'I know it.'

—Bennett Cerf

A man interrupted a match-deciding putt on the eighteenth green, to stand respectfully, hat in hand, while a funeral cortège rumbled by on the road behind him. Then he sank his putt. 'Congratulations,' said his opponent grudgingly. 'It took iron nerve not to let that funeral procession fluster you into missing your putt!' 'It wasn't easy,' admitted the victor. 'On Saturday we would've been married twenty-five years!'

—Bennett Cerf

‘Who would you call in the middle of the night if you were sick or scared?’ Some people couldn’t list anyone. For some, though, it was child; for some people it was friend. For many it was their spouse. You can fight like cats and dogs, but if you have a sense of ‘If I ever need my husband, he is there for me,’ that’s huge.

—Robert Waldinger,
M.D.

The wife of one of the forwards on the New York Rangers hockey team admitted, ‘It’s really thrilling to be married to a big-time hockey star. Every time he comes home he looks like a different person.’

—Bennett Cerf

Ilka Chase’s first husband was the actor, Louis Calhern. Miss Chase describes their brief romance very frankly in her autobiography, *Past Imperfect*. After their divorce Calhern married Miss Julia Hoyt. A month or so later Ilka found in her trunk a box of beautiful calling cards engraved, ‘Mrs. Louis Calhern.’ “It seemed a pity to waste them,” relates Miss Chase, “so I mailed a box to my successor. But, aware of Louis’ mercurial marital habits, I wrote on the top of one, ‘Dear Julia: I hope these reach you in time.’ I received no acknowledgment.”

—Bennett Cerf

When widows exclaim loudly against second marriages, I would always lay a wager that the man, if not the wedding day, is absolutely fixed on.

—Henry Fielding

An irate lady, seeking a divorce in court, told the judge, ‘My husband is an out-and-out loafer who thinks of nothing day and night but horse racing. He doesn’t even remember our wedding day.’ ‘That’s a lie!’ shouted the outraged husband. ‘We were married the day Twenty Grand won the Wood Memorial.’

—Bennett Cerf

I totally support the concept of civil partnerships in the eyes of the law, and think it a disgrace that same sex couples have had to wait so long for legal rights, protection and recognition.

—Adam Rickitt

Women are like cars: we all want a Ferrari, sometimes want a pickup truck, and end up with a station wagon.

—Tim Allen

Man: I want to divorce my wife. She spends every night prowling through bars and pubs.

Lawyer: Is she looking for someone in particular?

Man: Yeah, me.

—*AARP Bulletin*

The most important thing in a good marriage is not happiness, but stability.

—Gabriel Garcia
Marquez

Research and counseling have changed in recent years. The focus used to be on how to navigate conflict, but that isn't the biggest challenge to long-term marriage—it's boredom. As in 'the sense that we're not growing, we're not changing. We haven't had sex in a long time; passion and interest are gone. It's not like we're fighting; it's like we're living with the sibling.'

—Eli Finkel

In some sense, marriage is absurd. What, you sample experiences together from ages 26 to 28 and say, 'Perfect! Let's do it!' as if you really have the information that you need? We obviously don't have enough information to make a decision of this consequence for 50 years from now. There's no way that that's a sensible thing to do. So let's figure out a way to make this work—which is really what marriage is at its best. That is the romance of marriage—the daring notion of throwing rationality to the wind and then committing to making it work. I feel it's beautiful to say, 'This stuff we're about to do is crazy. Let's do it anyway.'

—Eli Finkel

When men and women agree, it is only in their conclusions; their reasons are always different.

—George Santayana

MY MARRIAGE ADVICE: Before the wedding, decide together as a couple what you consider to be a reasonable number of t-shirts for one human to own. Because trust me, it's going to come up.

—Internet Meme

You know you've been married a while when you can correctly answer 'What's that one person's name in that movie about the thing?'

—Internet Meme

In case you're wondering what marriage is like, my husband and I just fought over the fact that he wouldn't tell me where he hid the candy I asked him to hide from me.

—Lindsey Silver

Marry someone who knows how to cook. Looks go away. Hunger doesn't.

—Internet Meme

You need more fact in the dangerous art of giving presents than in any other social action.

—William Bolitho

Each home has been reduced to the bare essentials—to barer essentials than most primitive people would consider possible. Only one woman's hands to feed the baby, answer the telephone, turn off the gas under the pot that is boiling over, soothe the older child who has broken a toy, and open both doors at once. She is a nutritionist, a child psychologist, an engineer, a production manager, an expert buyer, all in one. Her husband sees her as free to plan her own time, and envies her; she sees him as having regular hours and envies him.

--Margaret Mead

Me: [boiling water]

Wife: No, not like THAT!

—Internet Meme

If you don't think one minute is a big deal, try waking your wife up at 8:59 instead of 9:00 like she asked.

—Internet Meme

Women of the 1950s were bored out of their minds, a lost generation stuck with the babies and pets while their dundering, no-good husbands were rewarded with the elysian pleasures of selling life insurance and rotating tires....she's been left with the laundry and the children, the realization that the college girl full of potential is gone, and that no one else seems to miss her....That there were a lot of unhappy housewives in mid-century America is a horse that has been beaten to death, hauled to the glue factory, and turned into paste.

—Caitlin Flanagan

A woman one loves rarely suffices for all our needs, so we deceive her with another whom we do not love.

—Marcel Proust

At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a child, a friend or a parent.

—Barbara Bush

It takes two people working all the time to make a relationship work, but only one to decide it's over and then it is just done at that very moment.

—*theChive*

When his English teacher-turned-radiologist dad and secretary-turned-social worker mom divorced, they consulted Monks.

They said, 'We both love you, and we're not going to take it personally. We just want to have your opinion about who you'd like to live with most of the time.

Monks chose his mom, and now, he jokes with her about his first thoughts: I remember thinking, 'My mom is the one with the color television.'

—Keysha Whitaker

We have to clean all day because people are coming over.

My wife is terrified.

Our house with four kids might look like a house with four kids.

—Internet Meme

'I'm going to the store. You can come if you want.'

My wife telling me I'm going to the store with her.

—*theChive*

How people watch movies when they're:

DATING *hold hands*

ENGAGED *cuddle*

MARRIED *one person turns the volume up when I'm choking on a piece of popcorn.*

—*theChive*

Send your significant other flowers to work with just a 'for my special lady' note written on it. If she doesn't bring them home from work she's cheating.

—*theChive*

He asked why the house isn't clean since I'm home all day. I asked why we aren't rich since he works all day.

—Internet Meme

A delicate young bride-to-be said to her mother, ‘Oh dear, there are so many things to do before the wedding, and I don’t want to overlook the most insignificant detail.’ ‘Don’t you worry your pretty little head,’ said the mother grimly. ‘I’ll see that he’s there.’

—Bennett Cerf

A Southern colonel, who cherishes the prejudices of his grandfather, was horrified when his gawky and strong-willed daughter elected to attend a college in New England. The daughter was well aware of his feelings, so when she actually fell in love with a Massachusetts lad she broke the news with some trepidation. ‘Daddy,’ she hazarded, ‘what would you-all say if I married a damn Yankee one day?’ ‘Say?’ roared the colonel. ‘I’d say we were beginning to pay ’em back at last!’

—Bennett Cerf

It doesn’t matter whom a man marries; he is sure to find, the next morning, he has married someone else.

—Samuel Rogers

Never marry a man for his money. The thing to look for in a husband is a gentle, even disposition. Of course, a man without a big bank account is always grouchy and bad-tempered.

—Fanny Brice

My wife is always trying to get rid of me. The other day she told me to put the garbage out. I said to her I already did. She told me to go and keep an eye on it.

—Rodney Dangerfield

Have you ever realized that a woman’s “I’ll be ready in five minutes’ and a man’s ‘I’ll be home in five minutes’ are exactly the same?

—Internet Meme

June used to be the month for weddings, but recent surveys find that more and more people are postponing their marriage ceremony until September. Or October. Or never.

When it comes to tying the knot, the tide turned in 2014, when the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showed for the first time that the majority of Americans 16 and older were single.... There are as many explanations for that singleness as there are single people.

—Burt Constable

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

—Socrates

The fidelity question is difficult for me. Society has made us believe we're supposed to be monogamous when we're not killer whales, or whatever the monogamous species is.

—Rachel Hunter

If you want to know how your girl will treat you after marriage, just listen to her talking to her little brother.

—Sam Levenson

In a bad marriage, friends are the invisible glue. If we have enough friends, we may go on for years, intending to leave, talking about leaving—instead of actually getting up and leaving.

—Erica Jong

There is just as many men come to Reno for divorces as there is Women. So you see Women are not the only things that are dissatisfied with their mates. Some women are failures just as well as men. And you see when some woman comes there to uncouple from the 'old grouch' and don't particularly have her mind made up about the next matrimonial accident why you see with all these men there on the same mission, Why she may pick up something worth while right there. The two sexes are just a-setting right there ready to console each other, and a lot of times you can get just as good or maybe better than you are throwing away right there in Reno.

—Will Rogers

I generally read every night before I fall asleep: Brad does too. I find it comforting to lie beside my husband, each of us with a book in our hands. I see it as a period of calm and intimacy, and as the perfect metaphor—together, yet individual—for our marriage.

—Debbie Macomber

Women cannot complain about men anymore until they start getting better taste in them.

—Bill Maher

Love does not just sit there, like a stone; it had to be made, like bread, remade all the time, made new.

—Ursula K. Le Guin

Marriage: a ceremony in which rings are put on the finger of the lady and through the nose of the gentleman.

—Herbert Spencer

[Me on my deathbed]

Wife: Is that what you're going to wear?

—Internet Meme

Wife and I just overheard the kids talking about how they'll decorate the house after we die. So I guess we're sleeping in shifts from now on.

—Internet Meme

Some women marry houses.

—Anne Sexton

If women were particular about men's characters, they would never get married at all.

—George Bernard Shaw

Marriage requires a special talent, like acting. Monogamy requires genius.

—Warren Beatty

Guys always think tears are a sign of weakness. They're a sign of FRUSTRATION. She's only crying so she won't cut your throat in your sleep. So make nice and be grateful.

—Donna Barr

Don't marry someone with intolerable characteristics in the hopes of changing him or her. If you can't live with someone who drinks or someone who isn't a Christian or someone who isn't clean, then don't marry that kind of person. The chances for miraculous improvements or changes in behavior are slim. What you see is what you get!

—James C. Dobson

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.

—P. J. O'Rourke

My mother said it was simple to keep a man, you must be a maid in the living room, a cook in the kitchen and a whore in the bedroom. I said I'd hire the other two and take care of the bedroom bit.

—Jerry Hall

Marriage vows should include... 'Do you promise to always help him find his stuff that's right in front of him?' Because you will be doing that forever.

—Internet Meme

People in relationships told me that their digital life seemed to be vying with their sex life. 'We'd probably have a lot more sex,' one woman noted, 'if we didn't get home and turn on the TV and start scrolling through our phones.' This seems to defy logic; our hunger for sex is supposed to be primal. Who would pick messing around online over actual messing around?

—Kate Julian

A British firm that processes divorce filings discovered a startling fact. Of the 4,665 petitions for divorce they'd received in 2018, two hundred of them claimed the marriage had been destroyed because one of the partners had become addicted to video games like Fortnite. Or to put it another way, Fortnite and its ilk were responsible for fully 5 percent of all divorces the firm was seeing.

—Clive Thompson

I knew in my bones that Emily Dickinson wouldn't have written even one poem if she'd had two howling babies, a husband bent on jamming another one into her, a house to run, a garden to tend, three cows to milk, twenty chickens to feed, and four hired hands to cook for. I knew then why they didn't marry. Emily and Jane and Louisa. I knew and it scared me. I also knew what being lonely was and I didn't want to be lonely my whole life. I didn't want to give up on my words. I didn't want to choose one over the other. Mark Twain didn't have to. Charles Dickens didn't.

—Jennifer Donnelly

Women, you are not rehabilitation centers for badly raised men...It is not your job to fix him, change him, parent him or raise him. You want a partner not a project.

—Julia Roberts

My wife said: 'Watcha doin' today?'

I said: 'Nothing.'

She said: 'You did that yesterday.'

I said: 'I wasn't finished.'

—Internet Meme

Do not underestimate the importance of birthdays and anniversaries in the life of a wife.

—Dan L. Miller

Do you know what drives the world? Love, not sex. Love, not money. Love for our children, our mates, our friends, and our family.

—Jennifer Probst

A man and a quilt will both keep you warm at night, but a quilt never says anything stupid.

—*maxine.com*

It's encouraging to find a girl who knows what she's marrying for. Nine-tenths of them think of it as a sort of walking into a moving-moving-picture sunset.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

Marriage is obsolete.

—Jane Fonda

The book on marriage says treat your wife like you treated her on the first date, so after dinner tonight I am dropping her off at her parent's house.

—Internet Meme

Marriage can be made to work if both the partners can see beyond themselves and understand the limitations, needs and abilities of the other person and are willing to embrace the positive and negative aspects of each other in their understanding. But it never happens that way. We expect others to understand and comply with us while we fail to do the same.

Thus marriage loses all its sheen by the time the couple reaches middle age.

—Chitralkha Paul

Wife: Is that what you're wearing?

Me: I guess not.

—Simon Holland

I was never a trophy wife, but I did get a participation certificate.

—Internet Meme

VALENTINE'S DAY (DATING)

Mushy care, roses, chocolates, lingerie, dinner reservations at a nice restaurant.

VALENTINE'S DAY (MARRIED 20 YEARS)

'They're charging \$7.99 for a greeting card now.'

'Eight bucks for a CARD? Ridiculous!'

'I won't get you a card if you don't get me a card.'

'Deal. I don't even want a card. I want a new vacuum.'

—Internet Meme

90% of being married is just shouting 'What' from other rooms.

—Internet Meme

'We' comes before 'I' in 'Wedding.'

—George Hearn

I have leveled with the girls—from Anchorage to Amarillo.

I tell them that all marriages are happy.

It's the living together afterward that's tough.

I tell them that a good marriage is not a gift,

It's an achievement.

that marriage is not for kids. It takes guts and maturity.

It separates the men from the boys and the women from the girls.

I tell them that marriage is tested daily by the ability to compromise.

Its survival can depend on being smart enough to know what's worth fighting about.

Or making an issue of or even mentioning.

Marriage is giving—and more important, it's forgiving.

And it is almost always the wife who must do these things.

Then, as if that were not enough, she must be willing to forget what she forgave.

Often that is the hardest part.

Oh, I have leveled all right.

If they don't get my message, Buster,

It's because they don't want to get it.

Rose-colored glasses are never made in bifocals

Because nobody wants to read the small print in dreams.

—Ann Landers

Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right and the other is the husband.

—Internet Meme

We all do the dishes together after dinner. But one night I was still in the kitchen 15 minutes after everyone else had dwindled away, and I thought, This isn't right. So the next night, when people started to drift off, I put my hands on my hips and said, maybe not in the most elegant way, 'Nobody leaves the kitchen until I leave the kitchen.' Bill and the kids gave me this surprised look. I said, 'Look. After you guys leave, I'm still doing X, Y and Z.' Guess what? Everything I did in 15 minutes got done by all of us in five minutes.

—Melinda Gates

Marriage: When dating goes too far.

—Internet Meme

Marriage Tip #46: Your wife won't start an argument with you if you're cleaning.

—Internet Meme

Your children have come into this world because of the two of you. Perhaps you two made lousy choices as to whom you decided to be the other parent. If so, that is your problem and your fault.

No matter what you think of the other party—or what your family thinks of the other—these children are one-half of each of you. Remember that, because every time you tell your child what an 'idiot' his father is, or what a 'fool' his mother is, or how bad the absent parent is, or what terrible things that person has done, you are telling the child half of him is bad.

That is an unforgivable thing to do to a child. That is not love. That is possession. If you do that to your children you will destroy them as surely as if you had cut them into pieces, because that is what you are doing to their emotions.

I sincerely hope that you do not do that to your children. Think more about your children and less about yourselves and make yours a selfless kind of love, not foolish or selfish, or your children will suffer.

—Judge Michael Haas

OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY

The day occurs just once a year,
When lovers muse as one.
“But don't you know that's just not so?
For I delight not once a year
But every hour, every day
And bless this love we share as one.”

—Dan L. Miller

Claiming that someone else's marriage is against your religion is like being angry at someone for eating a doughnut because you're on a diet.

—Internet Meme