

# BEST QUOTES ON WOMEN (WOMEN'S STUDIES)

Stop telling girls they can be anything they want when they grow up. I think it's a mistake. Not because they can't, but because it would have never occurred to them they couldn't.

—Sarah Silverman

What do girls do who haven't any mothers to help them through their troubles?

—Louisa May Alcott

Who would ever think that so much went on in the soul of a young girl?

—Anne Frank

I am in the delivery room with my niece moments after she brought her baby girl into the world. She is sobbing, 'I feel so sorry for men,' she says. 'They can't have babies.' She was drowning in hormones, obviously, but never mind. Mothers know of what she spoke. So do fathers, though perhaps in a less immediately physical way. It is the joy that passeth all understanding. And, as with love, you can't explain it to those who haven't experienced it. That's the unspoken truth.

--Kathleen Parker

Never grow a wishbone, daughter, where your backbone ought to be.

—Clementine Paddleford

There are certain things about women that men will never understand, in part because they have no interest in understanding them. They will never know how deeply we care about our houses—what a large role they play in our dreams for ourselves, how unhappy their shortcomings make us. Men think they understand the way our physical beauty—or lack of it, or assaults on it from age or extra weight—preys on our minds, but they don't fully grasp the significance these things have for us. Nor can they understand the way physical comforts or simple luxuries—the fresh towel or the fat new cake of soap—can lift our spirits. And they will never know how much our lives are shaped around the fear of bad men and the harm they can bring us if we're not careful, if we're not banded together, if we're not telling each other what to watch out for, what we've learned. We need each other's counsel, and oftentimes it comes when we're talking about other things, when we seem not to have much important on our minds at all.

--Caitlin Flanagan

Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition.

--Timothy Leary

What is enough? Enough is when somebody says, 'Get me the best people you can find' and nobody notices when half of them turn out to be women.

--Louise Renne

High heels were invented by a woman who had been kissed on the forehead.

--Christopher Morley

It's great to have someone to look up to. But you should want to be better than me.

--Danica Patrick,  
Most Successful  
Female NASCAR  
Driver

Forget teaching a man to fish; give woman a goat, and she'll feed, house, and clothe a village.

--Kathleen Parker

Women live longer than men. They do better in this economy. More of 'em graduate from college. They go into space and do everything men do, and sometimes they do it a whole lot better. I mean, hell, get out of the way—these females are going to leave us males in the dust.

--Ronald Ericsson

The girl you were at fifteen, sixteen. Angry and nasty. Hungry for love...You're always that girl. She never goes away. She's inside you all the time. That girl is forever.

—Megan Abbott

Men don't oppress women any more than women oppress men.

—Warren Farrell

You can gauge the success of a society by how it treats its women.

—Barack Obama

The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new.

—Osho

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

Educate a man and you educate an individual—educate a woman and you educate a family.

--Agnes Cripps

Most women are introspective: ‘Am I in love? Am I emotionally and creatively fulfilled?’ Most men are extrospective: ‘Did my team win? How’s my car?’

—Rita Rudner

I’m fascinated by writers, sisterhood, and women ahead of their time—so if I could spend time with one historical family, it would be the Brontës. I’d thank Anne, Emily, and Charlotte for insisting on their right to creativity before the world gave them permission. And I’d assure them that we women now regularly use our own names on our books.

—Glennon Doyle Melton

In a 1971 article in *Artnews*, Linda Nochlin, a feminist art historian, asked a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad question: ‘Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?’ Her question has been ringing in our collective ears ever since. And it’s ringing especially loudly this year. Here is Nochlin’s killer line: ‘The fact dear sisters, is that there are no women equivalents for Michelangelo or Rembrandt, Delacroix or Cézanne, Picasso or Matisse, or even, in very recent times, for de Kooning or Warhol.’

She went on to explain why:

The fault, dear brothers lies not in our stars, our hormones, our menstrual cycles or our empty internal spaces, but in our institutions and our education...everything that happens to us from the moment we enter this world of meaningful symbols, signs and signals.

Our very idea of greatness, of genius, she argued, is bound up with manliness.

—Sarah Boxer

The book that most changed my life was actually a series of books—the complete *Wizard of Oz* series, by L. Frank Baum. My family had a vintage collection of these books, passed down through many generations of hands, and I read them all with rapt passion. I well remember being bundled up in a blanket next to our wood stove in Litchfield, Connecticut, on cold winter weekends, lost in these marvelous tales. These books taught me to love reading, but more important, they taught me to love adventure, and to believe in the heroism of adventurous little girls from small family farms (not unlike my own) who were able to set out on wild voyages of discovery. When I eventually threw myself out into the world, to go on my own wild voyages of discovery, I do believe that the spirit of Dorothy Gale came with me. I am forever grateful to my grandparents, my great-aunts and my great-uncles, who saved these gorgeous and crumbling old books for my enlightenment, my inspiration and my education.

--Elizabeth Gilbert

All of the valuable qualities...like helping in the development of others—will not get you to the top at General Motors, were that path open to women....The characteristics most highly developed in women and perhaps most essential to human beings are the very characteristics that are specifically dysfunctional for success in world as it is....They may, however, be the important ones for making the world different.

--Jean Baker Miller

As the weaker sex, which is only true as concerns upper body muscle mass (about 40 percent less) and significantly less testosterone (hence less invading, marauding and pillaging), women tend to hide anything that might suggest 'weaker sex.' This is absurd on its face, but it also happens to be true.

—Kathleen Parker

This has always been a man's world, and none of the reasons that have been offered in explanation have seemed adequate.

—Simone de Beauvoir

In Cornell's math Ph.D. program there's a particular course during which the going inevitably gets tough. Male students typically recognize the hurdle for what it is, and respond to their lower grades by saying, 'Wow, this is a tough class.' That's what's known as external attribution, and in a situation like this, it's usually a healthy sign of resilience. Women tend to respond differently. When the course gets hard, their reaction is more likely to be 'You see, I knew I wasn't good enough.' That's internal attribution, and it can be debilitating.

--Katty Kay and Claire  
Shipman

If life were one long grade school, women would be the undisputed rulers of the world.

--Carol Dweck

As a young professor I would set up a test where I'd ask men and women how they thought they were going to do on a variety of tasks. Men consistently overestimated their abilities and subsequent performance, and the women routinely underestimated both. The actual performances did not differ in quality. It is one of the most consistent findings you can have.

--Brenda Major

You see a lot of smart guys with dumb women, but you hardly ever see a smart woman with a dumb guy.

--Erica Jong

Back in the 1970s and '80s, most professional orchestras transitioned one by one to 'blind' auditions, in which each musician seeking a job performed from behind a screen. The move was made in part to stop conductors from favoring former students, which it did. But it also produced another result: the proportion of women winning spots in the most-prestigious orchestras shot up fivefold, notably when they played instruments typically identified closely with men.

--Don Peck

So much of the destruction on Earth has been wrought by men. Women are the ones who give life and try to pick up the pieces....What a great gender they are.

--William T. Vollmann

'According to author Sylvia Hewlett, career women shouldn't wait to have babies, because our fertility takes a steep drop-off after age 27,' Tina Fey said during a 'Weekend Update' sketch. 'And Sylvia's right; I definitely should have had a baby when I was 27, living in Chicago over a biker bar, pulling down a cool \$12,000 a year. That would have worked out great.' Rachel Dratch said, 'Yeah. Sylvia, um, thanks for reminding me that I have to hurry up and have a baby. Uh, me and my four cats will get right on that.'

--*Saturday Night Live*  
Sketch

I believe that the rights of women and girls is the unfinished business of the 21st century. We see women and girls across the world who are oppressed and violated and demeaned and degraded and denied so much of what they are entitled to as our fellow human beings.

--Hillary Clinton

Rather than hold ourselves to unrealistic broad expectations, we might try to narrow our vision, identifying our individual strengths, nurturing our particular skills, and not devoting too much time or energy to things that fall further afield. There are millions of women...who live lives of consequence every day. They are teaching vocational classes to at-risk teenagers; starting small businesses in rural areas; bringing hot meals to the neighbor next door. They are not famous, most of them. They are not perfect. They do not do, or have, it all. But they are building lives that matter, honing skills and nurturing talents that touch the lives of others. Which is in the end, perhaps, the best we all can do.

--Debora Spar

Every day, in articles and blogs, in play groups and boardrooms, women...are subjecting each other to a constant stream of scrutiny; this relentless expectation of across-the-board perfection, with no quarter given for personal idiosyncrasy or the occasional mistake. Sheryl Sandberg, wife, mother, and Facebook COO, is being lambasted for writing a bestselling book that didn't manage to solve all the problems facing women in the workforce. Marissa Mayer, trying to save Yahoo from disaster while tending to a newborn, is crushed for not allowing her employees to telecommute. IMF director Christine Lagarde is attacked for daring to wear designer suits on the job; mayoral candidate Christine Quinn, for failing to support female-friendly legislation; Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi for her supposedly strident ways and wrinkle-free forehead; and pop sensation Adele for failing to lose all of her maternity weight. All around us, women are constantly being held to superhuman standards—to a list of inherently contradictory goals that no normal person, no matter how talented, lucky, or gorgeous, can ever realistically hope to attain.

--Debora Spar

There is a special place in hell for women who don't help other women.

--Madeleine Albright

Let it be that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights, once and for all.

--Hillary Clinton

Tiara syndrome: the belief that if they (women) keep doing their job well, someone will notice them and place a tiara on their head.

--Carol Frohlinger  
and Deborah  
Kolb

The university system aside, I suspect there is a deeply ingrained set of behaviors that undermine women: the habits they pick up—or don't pick up—in the dating world. Men learn early that to woo women, they must risk rejection and be persistent. Straight women, for their part, learn from their earliest years that they must wait to be courted. The professional world does not reward the second approach. No one is going to ask someone out professionally if she just makes herself attractive enough. I suspect this is why people who put together discussion panels and solicit op-eds always tell me the same things: it's harder to get women to say yes than men. Well, duh. To be female in our culture is to be trained from puberty in the art of rebuffing—rebuffing gazes, comments, touches, propositions, and proposals.

--Garance

Franke-Ruta

In the process of trying so hard to have it all, we American women have ended up on very lonely journeys of perfection. We need to get back to traditions of supporting each other—in the workplace, on the playground, in our families, in the PTA meeting. Because in the end, who really cares about having it all? We all just want to be at peace, and maybe have a little happiness, too.

--Laura Gingras

The commonest fallacy among women is that simply having children makes one a mother—which is as absurd as believing that having a piano makes one a musician.

--Sydney J. Harris

When God made man she was only testing.

--Unknown

We are told that 'the hand which rocks the cradle rules the world.' I have lived in this world for over fifty years, but find no evidence of rulership in the act of cradle-rocking. If it had been recorded that 'the hand which rocks the cradle' bears the burdens of the world, the connection between truth and poetry would have been self-evident.

--Rebecca Latimer Felton

We've got a generation now who were born with semi-equality. They don't know how it was before, so they think, this isn't too bad. We're working. We have our attaché cases and our three-piece suits. I get very disgusted with the younger generation of women. We had a torch to pass, and they are just sitting there. They don't realize it can be taken away. Things are going to have to get worse before they join in fighting the battle.

--Erma Bombeck

In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man; if you want anything done, ask a woman.

--Margaret Thatcher

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

This country got into trouble when women came down to equality with men.

--Adela Rogers St. Johns

There was, I think, never any reason to believe in any innate superiority of the male, except his superior muscle.

--Bertrand Russell

Because woman's work is never done and is underpaid or unpaid or boring or repetitious and we're the first to get the sack and what we look like is more important than what we do and if we get raped it's our fault and if we get bashed we must have provoked it and if we raise our voices we're nagging bitches and if we enjoy sex we're nymphos and if we don't we're frigid and if we love women it's because we can't get a 'real' man and if we ask our doctor too many questions we're neurotic and/or pushy and if we expect community care for children we're selfish and if we stand up for our rights we're aggressive and 'unfeminine' and if we don't we're typical weak females and if we want to get married we're out to trap a man and if we don't we're unnatural and because we still can't get an adequate safe contraceptive but men can walk on the moon and if we can't cope or don't want a pregnancy we're made to feel guilty about abortion and ...for lots and lots of other reasons we are part of the women's liberation movement.

--*NUS Women's  
Campaign*

Next to God we are indebted to women, first for life itself, and then for making it worth living.

--Mary McLeod Bethune

Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult.

--Charlotte Whitton

On one issue at least, men and women agree: they both distrust women.

--H. L. Mencken

Until Eve arrived, this was a man's world.

--Richard Armour

In that society (in Ghana), women themselves believe that only two types of their species suffer: the sterile—that is, those incapable of producing children—and the foolish. And by the foolish they refer to the type of woman who depends solely on her husband for subsistence.

--Christina Ama Ata  
Aidoo

Momma...rose alone to apocalyptic silence, set the sun in our windows, and daily mended the world.

--Paulette Childress  
White

From birth to age 18, a girl needs good parents, from 18 to 35 she needs good looks, from 35 to 55 she needs a good personality, and from 55 on she needs good cash.

--Sophie Tucker

If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament.

--Florynce Kennedy

Woman: An animal...having a rudimentary susceptibility to domestication...The species is the most widely distributed of all beasts of prey...The woman is omnivorous and can be taught not to talk.

--Ambrose Bierce

I blame the women: they stay home all day, they set the tone. Many look back with regret to the days when they worked in an office. Their work kept them alert. Home and child-minding can have a blunting effect on a woman's mind. But only she can sharpen it.

--Betty Jerman

The overemphasis on protecting girls from strain or injury and underemphasis on developing skills and experiencing teamwork fits neatly into the pattern of the second sex...Girls are the spectators and the cheerleaders...Perfect preparation for the adult role of woman—to stand decoratively on the sidelines of history and cheer on the men who make the decisions.

--Kathryn Clarenbach

The future woman must have a life work and economic independence. She must have the right of motherhood at her own discretion.

--W. E. B. DuBois

The point of Women's Liberation is not to stand at the door of the male world, beating our fists, and crying: 'Let me in, damn you, let me in!' The point is to walk away from that world and concentrate on creating a new woman.

--Vivian Gornick

We whose hands have rocked the cradle, are now using our heads to rock the boat.

--Wilma Scott Heide

This movement...is the last stage of the drive for equality for women. We are determined that our daughters and granddaughters will live as free human beings, secure in their personhood, and dedicated to making this nation and the world a humane place in which to live.

--Aileen Clarke  
Hernandez

The modern woman is the curse of the universe. A disaster, that's what. She thinks that before her arrival on the scene no woman ever did anything worthwhile before, no woman was ever liberated until her time, no woman really ever amounted to anything.

--Adela Rogers St. Johns

In all languages the words, *Wife*, *Mother*, are spoken with reverence, and associated with the highest, holiest functions of woman's earthly life. To man belongs the kingdom of the head: to woman the empire of the heart!

--James McGrigor Allan

To man belong professions, dignities, authorities, and pleasures; for woman, there remain only duties, domestic virtue, and perhaps as the result of these, the happiness of tranquil submission.

--Sarah Wentworth  
Morton (1823)

I do not wish them to have power over men; but over themselves.

--Mary Wollstonecraft

The art of being a woman can never consist of being a bad imitation of a man.

--Olga Knopf

A woman's place is in the home.

--Proverb

The fact is that men need women more than women need men; and so, aware of this fact, man has sought to keep woman dependent upon him economically as the only method open to him of making himself necessary to her.

--Elizabeth Gould Davis

The woman who is really kind to dogs is always one who has failed to inspire sympathy in men.

--Max Beerbohm

Modern inventions have banished the spinning-wheel, and the same law of progress makes the woman to-day a different woman from her grandmother.

--Elizabeth Cady Stanton

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

There remain no legal slaves—except for the woman in every man's home.

--John Stuart Mill

Women decide the larger questions of life correctly and quickly, not because of intuition, but simply and solely because they have sense...It is a rare, rare, man who is as steadily intelligent, as constantly sound in judgment, as little put off by appearance, as the average woman.

--H. L. Mencken

A woman has the form of an angel, the heart of a serpent, and the mind of an ass.

--German Proverb

The most beautiful woman in the world would not be half so beautiful if she was as great at mathematics as Sir Isaac Newton or as great a metaphysician as the noblest and profoundest school man.

--*The Gentleman's Magazine* (1738)

I would, without a doubt, rather be a simple soldier than be a woman, because to be truthful, a soldier can become king, but a woman can never become free.

--Madeleine de Scudéry  
(1690)

Women are intellectually more desultory and volatile than men; they are more occupied with particular instances than with general principles; they judge rather by intuitive perceptions than by deliberate reasoning.

--W. E. H. Lecky

It is generally admitted that with woman the powers of intuition, of rapid perception, and perhaps of imitation, are more strongly marked than in man; but some, at least, of these faculties are characteristic of the lower races, and therefore of a past and lower state of civilisation.

--Charles Darwin

Now he disliked talking business with her as much as he had enjoyed it before they were married. Now he saw that she understood entirely too well and he felt the usual masculine indignation at the duplicity of women. Added to it was the usual masculine disillusionment in discovering that a woman has a brain.

--Margaret Mitchell

They have to run the house, bring up a family and many of them now work as well. So much for the weaker sex! They have to be a lot tougher than men to cope with three jobs in one. I don't think women are under any more stress than our grandmothers were, if you can imagine the days when our grandmothers were short of money, living in very poor conditions. I think the stress is different. It's a much more refined stress than it used to be. It used to be gross and grotesque stress in the living conditions.

--John Fry

I don't mind...the fun and games of being treated like a fragile flower. But as a physiologist working with the unromantic scientific facts of life, I find it hard to delude myself about feminine frailty.

--Estelle R. Ramey

We turn in our sleep and groan because we are parasites—we women—because we produce nothing, say nothing, find our whole world in the love of a man—For shame! We are become the veriest Philistines—in this matter of woman's sphere. I suppose it is too soon to expect us to achieve perspective on the problem of women's rights.

--Ruth Benedict (1913)

I don't believe in equal opportunity. I think it's terribly tiresome. The whole thing is absolutely terrible now because we've got vast unemployment. It's still a stigma for a man to be unemployed, and to be kept by a woman. It's not a stigma for the woman to be kept by a man.

--Barbara Cartland

There are two kinds of women—goddesses and doormats.

--Pablo Picasso

A man is designed to walk three miles in the rain to phone for help when the car breaks down—and a woman is designed to say, 'You took your time' when he comes back dripping wet.

--Victoria Wood

The prolonged slavery of women is the darkest page in human history.

--Elizabeth Stanton

The old chestnut about women being more emotional than men has been forever destroyed by the evidence of the two world wars. Women under blockade, bombardment, concentration-camp conditions survive them vastly more successfully than men. The psychiatric casualties of populations under such conditions are mostly masculine.

--Ashley Montague

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

Many women do not recognize themselves as discriminated against; no better proof could be found of the totality of their conditioning.

--Kate Millett

When a man gives his opinion he's a man. When a woman gives her opinion she's a bitch.

--Bette Davis

A women's greatest asset is her beauty.

—Alex Comfort

Most countries now have anti-discrimination laws...So what is holding back women? If they are not getting ahead is it maybe because they don't want to?

Perhaps. Centuries of being viewed as inferior to men has left women, collectively, with a pretty low self-image. After all oppression does not exist to encourage or propel its victims forward.

--Vanessa Baird

There is no worse evil than a bad woman; and nothing has every been produced better than a good one.

--Euripides

We are all right in our place, we are told—as controllers of the household budget, educators of the minds of children, folders of election addresses, but beware the efforts of those who aspire to higher things.

--Norah Willis

You have to admit that most women who have done something with their lives have been disliked by almost everyone.

--Françoise Gilot

Until that day when women, and only women, shall determine which American males must, by law, have vasectomies, then—and only then—will you or any man have the right to determine which American women can have abortions.

--Betty Beale

What we still need to do is to infiltrate the mainstream with feminine values. Allow women to think and behave like women. There is no point in having women Cabinet ministers or managing directors or editors if they think and behave exactly like men. Their whole value lies in their difference.

--Lesley Garner

Women fail to understand how much men hate them.

--Germaine Greer

Women get more unhappy the more they try to liberate themselves and act like men. A woman is a tender and sweet person and she'll lose that if she tries to be like a man.

--Brigitte Bardot

The women I'm furious with are the Women's Liberationists. They keep getting up on soapboxes and proclaiming that women are brighter than men. That's true, but it should be kept very quiet or it ruins the whole racket.

--Anita Loos

It is misleading and unfair to imply that an intelligent woman must 'rise above' her maternal instincts and return to work when many intelligent, sensitive women have found that the reverse is better for them.

--Sally E. Shaywitz

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

A caress is better than a career.

--Elisabeth Marbury

Women are equal because they are not different any more.

--Erich Fromm

A necessary object, woman, who is needed to preserve the species or to provide food and drink.

--St. Thomas Aquinas

The forming of the minds of children in that early stage of their existence which, in nine cases out of every ten, determines their quality, character, and usefulness, through the whole period of life, is the most sacred duty which devolves upon the sex, and if they neglect this, or perform it in an improper manner, the character of the whole of society is lowered to the same extent.

--*The Magazine of  
Domestic  
Economy* (1835)

If women want any rights more'n they got, why don't they just take 'em, and not be talkin' about it.

--Sojourner Truth

Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother.

--Lin Yutang

Women and foxes, being weak, are distinguished by superior tact.

--Ambrose Bierce

Sex prejudice is so ingrained in our society that many who practice it are simply unaware that they are hurting women. It is the last socially acceptable prejudice.

--Bernice Sandler

Women should be obscene and not heard.

--Groucho Marx

In place of equal respect, the nation offered women the Miss America beauty pageant, established in 1920—the same year women won the vote.

--Susan Faludi

I get respect from men, but there definitely is a difference. I point out an idea and it's passed over. Two minutes later a man says the same idea and everyone jumps on it. Prejudice is difficult to work against, so you have to go around it, or beyond it.

--Marie McDonald

Of my two 'handicaps,' being female put many more obstacles in my path than being black.

--Shirley Chisolm

You show me a woman who hasn't fantasized getting in a car and leaving home and I'll show you a woman who doesn't drive.

—Susan Sussman

When will women begin to have the first glimmer that above all other loyalties is the loyalty to truth, i.e., to yourself, that husband, children, friends, and country are nothing to that?

--Alice James

Violence against women by their intimate partners is responsible for more injuries than car crashes, rape, and muggings combined.

--Antonia Novello

I will feel equality has arrived when we can elect to office women who are as incompetent as some of the men who are already there.

--Maureen Reagan

Women are most fascinating between the ages of thirty-five and forty, after they have won a few races and know how to pace themselves. Since few women ever pass forty, maximum fascination can continue indefinitely.

--Christian Dior

Women have served all these centuries as looking-glasses possessing the magic and delicious power of reflecting the figure of man at twice its natural size.

--Virginia Woolf

There are three things a woman can make out of almost anything—a salad, a hat, and a quarrel.

--John Barrymore

A woman should pick an age and stick to it.

--Unknown

A youthful figure is what you get when you ask a woman her age.

--Unknown

We women do talk too much, but even then we don't tell half we know.

--Lady Nancy Astor

By and large, mothers and housewives are the only workers who do not have regular time off. They are the great vacationless class.

--Anne Morrow  
Lindbergh

I love being a woman. You can cry. You get to wear pants now....It must be a great thing, or so many men wouldn't be wanting to do it.

--Gilda Radner

The problems and dissensions of multi-national expeditions pale into insignificance compared to those that can be brought about by a single woman.

--Sir Edmund Hillary

I'm not denyin' the women are foolish: God Almighty made 'em to match the men.

--George Eliot

Being a woman is a terribly difficult trade, since it consists principally of dealing with men.

--Joseph Conrad

Brigands demand your money or your life; women require both.

--Samuel Butler

Women keep a special corner of their hearts for sins they have never committed.

--Cornelia Otis Skinner

Women's virtue is man's greatest invention.

--Cornelia Otis Skinner

Brains are an asset, if you hide them.

--Mae West

Men, some to business, some to pleasure take; but ev'ry woman is at heart a rake.

--Alexander Pope

Woman inspires us to great things, and prevents us from achieving them.

--Alexandre Dumas

It is because of men that women dislike one another.

--Jean de La Bruyère

A woman is fascinated not by art but by the noise made by those in the field.

--Anton Chekhov

You may search my time-worn face,  
You'll find a merry eye that twinkles.  
I am NOT an old lady  
Just a little girl with wrinkles!

--Edythe E. Bregnard

Woman must have her freedom—the fundamental freedom of choosing whether or not she shall be a mother and how many children she will have. Regardless of what man's attitude may be, that problem is hers—and before it can be his, it is hers alone. She goes through the vale of death alone, each time a babe is born. As it is the right neither of man nor the state to coerce her into this ordeal, so it is her right to decide whether she will endure it.

--Margaret Sanger

Being an old maid is like death by drowning—a really delightful sensation after you have ceased struggling.

--Edna Ferber

Our struggle today is not to have a female Einstein get appointed as an assistant professor. It is for a woman schlemiel to get as quickly promoted as a male schlemiel.

--Bella Abzug

If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.

--Abigail Smith Adams  
(1776)

There is more difference within the sexes than between them.

--Dame Ivy  
Compton-Burnett

Implicit in the women's movement is the idea that women will share in the economic burden, and men will share more equally in the home and the family.

--Betty Friedan

The women who do the most work get the least money, and the women who have the most money do the least work.

--Charlotte Perkins  
Gilman

When Harvard men say they have graduated from Radcliffe, then we've made it.

--Jacqueline Kennedy  
Onassis

It is always disagreeable to take stands. It is always easier to compromise, always easier to let things go. To many women, and I am one of them, it is extraordinarily difficult to care about anything enough to cause disagreement or unpleasant feelings, but I have come to the conclusion that this must be done for a time until we can prove our strength and demand respect for our wishes. We cannot even be of real service in this country and speak as a united body of women unless we have the respect of the men and show that when we express a wish, we are willing to stand by it.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

When you talk to young girls these days about their role models, very few mention a chemist like Madame Curie, or an astrophysicist and astronaut like Sally Ride, or a zoologist like Jane Goodall. Instead, they look to someone like Madonna, whose inspiring achievement in life is to parade around in her underwear while proclaiming herself to be a 'material girl.' And people wonder why the country's in trouble.

--Wynetka Ann Reynolds

Some have predicted that by the year 2000, all the poor will be women and children. There is a sizable list of reasons for this, which include lack of child support payments, teenage pregnancy, the divorce rate, and the impact of a growing acceptance of single motherhood.

--Nancy M. Neuman

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

The basic freedom of the world is woman's freedom. A free race cannot be born of slave mothers. A woman enchained cannot choose but give a measure of that bondage to her sons and daughters. No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother.

--Margaret Sanger

I'm no prude, but I find it nothing short of obscene that women are forced to expose ourselves to politicians—forced to submit our private matters, our private decisions...to public debate! Men's reproduction isn't regulated by the state—and it shouldn't be. Neither should women's.

--Faye Wattleton

Taught from infancy that beauty is woman's sceptre, the mind shapes itself to the body, and roaming around its gilt cage, only seeks to adorn its prison.

--Mary Wollstonecraft

I married beneath me—all women do.

--Lady Nancy Astor

Many women have more power than they recognize, and they're very hesitant to use it, for they fear they won't be loved.

--Patricia Schroeder

You can't have a Congress that responds to the needs of the workingman when there are practically no people here who represent him. And you're not going to have a society that understands its humanity if you don't have more women in government.

--Bella Abzug

If women understood and exercised their power they could remake the world.

--Emily Taft Douglas

Women need to see ourselves as individuals capable of creating change. That is what political and economic power is all about: having a voice, being able to shape the future. Women's absence from decision-making positions has deprived the country of a necessary perspective.

--Madeleine Kunin

We have not sat at the feet of older women and learned from them. There's been no time. We're too busy building our professions, attending club meetings, decorating our new homes, running children from one enrichment program to another, buying more and more things, keeping fit at the health club and trying to be the super ladies.

--Barbara Jenkins

Motherhood is neither a duty nor a privilege, but simply the way that humanity can satisfy the desire for physical immortality and triumph over the fear of death.

--Dame Rebecca West

A woman's head is always influenced by heart; but a man's heart by his head.

--Lady Marguerite  
Blessington

Party organization matters. When the door of a smoke-filled room is closed, there's hardly ever a woman inside.

--Millicent Fenwick

Social science affirms that a woman's place in society marks the level of civilization.

--Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Women share with men the need for personal success, even the taste for power, and no longer are we willing to satisfy those needs through the achievements of surrogates, whether husbands, children or merely role models.

--Elizabeth Dole

Until recently, the ‘old girls’ did not know how the ‘old boys’ network operated. Women didn’t know they needed to have a network to capture a top-level position in an institution or organization. They thought that all it took was hard work; eventually the organization would recognize worth and promote able people. Women now know that, besides hard work and lots of skill, the move to the top requires a supportive network.

--June E. Gabler

This is what it’s like being a successful woman in America. You get to be treated as the second sex by an ever-more-elite class of men.

--Ellen Goodman

Unfortunately, there are still many women in the business world who refuse to support women. I call them ‘Honorary Males’—women who think that power is to be had only in the company of men. Women must realize they have power—economic and political. Don’t give your power away; use it for yourself and for the benefit of other women.

--Ginger Purdy

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

Women observe subconsciously a thousand little details, without knowing they are doing so. Their subconscious mind adds these little things together—and they call the result intuition.

--Agatha Christie

The majority of women commit the strategic error of attempting to excel in a maximum of fields in order to satisfy all their customers’ needs. This phenomenon is particularly true of working wives. Through a mixture of guilt and vanity they wear themselves out trying to combine their roles of working women and perfect housewives. Thus they run the risk of compromising part of the capital essential to the smooth running of their business—their health.

--Christiane Collange

I know God is not a woman—no woman would have created men with so many imperfections.

--Jill M. Considine

Until women learn to want economic independence, i.e., the ability to earn their own living independently of husbands, fathers, brothers or lovers,—and until they work out a way to get this independence without denying themselves the joys of love and motherhood, it seems to me feminism has no roots.

--Crystal Eastman

A girl should not expect special privileges because of her sex but neither should she adjust to prejudice and discrimination.

--Betty Friedan

There is no female mind. The brain is not an organ of sex. Might as well speak of a female liver.

--Charlotte Perkins  
Gilman

We do not understand the psychology of women because women have not articulated their experience.

--Karen Horney

Nobody objects to a woman being a good writer or sculptor or geneticist if at the same time she manages to be a good wife, good mother, good-looking, good-tempered, well-groomed and unaggressive.

--Leslie M. McIntyre

After all, God made man and then said: I can do better than that—and made woman.

--Adele Rogers St. John

Women are going to learn how to be providers. I don't mean workers; we're already workers. The difference is taking responsibility not only for your economic present, but for your future. That's a big change. Up to this point, women have been expected to be contributors and helpmates. But relationships and marriage are not predictable anymore, so women are starting to pick careers and think about money, lifestyle, location, how many children to have—everything from A to Z in terms of what they alone can support.

--Pepper Schwartz

Men see work as a series of tasks to be completed, all adding up to something; women often look at a job as an endless stream of work, with no beginning, middle or end.

--Margaret Henning and  
Anne Jardin

There is a type of woman who cannot remain at home. In spite of the place her children and family fill in her life, her nature demands something more; she cannot divorce herself from the larger social life. She cannot let her children narrow her horizon. For such a woman there is no rest.

--Golda Meir

This is a country where women have won the right to be terminally exhausted. But we can start to say things to ourselves and our employers like 'Two of us can share a job' and 'Why do we have to go to an office?' There really isn't as much reason anymore. The day the FAX machine came into our lives, everything changed. We can work in a closet or anywhere.

--Sally Jessy Raphael

I am 34 and know that life is short. I have accomplished nothing of what I wished to accomplish. And what was that? Really, I wanted the impossible. A man could do it, perhaps, but not a woman. I wanted to become somebody, an artist entire, beginning with nothing, nothing at all—no roots, no money, no parental help, no culture, no father—to create myself from scratch through language only, to see my face without a mirror. And I have failed, naturally. Everything else that I have—and it is a lot—has lost its savor because of that failure. Praise is empty. I have accomplished nothing of what I intended and never shall. The children do not make up for that. They have their own destinies and I have just a succession of days.

--Michele Murray

Instead of separating myself from pressure to write, I find myself inwardly screaming, frustrated because I'm not superwoman: the perfect mother, perfect lover, perfect poet. I'm afraid I'm going to fail at all these, or have a nervous breakdown, or beat my child, or continue in some mundane existence, hating myself for no longer writing.

--Marie-Elise

Here's some exciting news: women now make up 49% of the workforce and 57% of the college population—indisputable evidence that women aren't just a part of the workforce, they're shaping it. After years of fighting for the rights and privileges that men enjoy, women are finally positioned to become the top influencers at work, at home, and in the world.

—Katherine Crowley and  
Kathi Elster

Women like silent men. They think they're listening.

--Marcel Achard

While most of us want to be kind and nurturing, we struggle with our darker side - feelings of jealousy, envy, and competition. While men tend to compete in an overt manner - jockeying for position and fight to be crowned 'winners' – women often compete more covertly and behind the scenes. This covert competition and indirect aggression is at the heart of mean behavior among women at work.

—Katherine Crowley and  
Kathi Elster

My kids were only babies when their Daddy went away.  
So I hung up my apron and went out to work for pay.  
They put me on the night-shift working on a big machine;  
That was the last of normal life my kids and I have seen.

--Marilyn Major

Apply yourself at school and at work. And to cover all your bases, marry a man with money.

—Daniela Drake

Yes, oh yes, in spite of how far we've come, our looks are still up there on the checklist of our success as women. It is on our checklist in an arbitrary omnipresent way that we did not necessarily invite. Perhaps we once made it a priority. Perhaps others made it a priority and we correspondingly internalized it by default. We might even occasionally boycott it, hoping to escape this particular paradigm of self worth and success. But either way, whether we imposed it upon ourselves or someone else did, it's there now and has been for a long while....The truth is that we know it. We see it, live it, breathe it, watch TV about it, read about it. We see how Hilary Clinton, Sarah Palin, Michelle Obama and others are irrelevantly defined by it in the political sphere when there is hardly a media whisper of George W. Bush's, Bill Clinton's or Mitt Romney's appearance. Every once in a while we might hear about Barack Obama's ears, but that's about it. Looks do not define men like they still define women, even in the most serious platforms in the world. This is a beautiful but ugly remnant of a time when women were the trophies and property of men, when our entire worth was once based on appearance, pedigree, purity and child-bearing ability.

—Juliette Fretté

There is in every true woman's heart a spark of heavenly fire, which lies dormant in the broad daylight of prosperity; but which kindles up, and beams and blazes in the dark hour of adversity.

--Washington Irving

Charm is a sort of bloom on a woman. If you have it, you don't need to have anything else; and if you don't have it, it doesn't matter what else you have.

--Sir James Barrie

The proper study of mankind is woman and...it is the most complex and arduous.

--Henry Adams

Women are not men's equals in anything except responsibility. We are not their inferiors, either, or even their superiors. We are quite simply different races.

--Phyllis McGinley

In the lower classes, the woman is not only superior to the man, she almost always controls him as well.

--Honoré de Balzac

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

Men are the reason that women do not love one another.

--La Bruyère

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

--Simone de Beauvoir

We're all asked to be Superwoman. I'm not asking it, our society does that. All I can tell you is that I believe it's a lot easier to write books while bringing up kids than to bring up kids while working nine to five plus housekeeping. But that is what our society, while sentimentalizing over Mom and the Family, demands of most women—unless it refuses them any work at all and dumps them onto welfare and says, Bring up your kids on food stamps, Mom, we might need them for the Army.

--Ursula K. Le Guin

Learning is nothing without cultivated manners, but when the two are combined in a woman, you have one of the most exquisite products of civilization.

--André Maurois

The program of our National Socialist Women's Movement has but a single point, and that point is the Child—that tiny creature which must be born and grow strong, for in the child alone the whole life-struggle has its meaning.

--Adolf Hitler

A man...must always think about women as Orientals do: he must conceive of woman as a possession, as property that can be locked away, as something predestined for service and achieving her perfection in that.

--Nietzsche

The prejudice against color is no stronger than that against sex....The Negro's skin and the woman's sex are both prima facie evidence that they were intended to be in subjection to the white (Anglo-Saxon) man.

--Elizabeth Cady  
Stanton (1860)

When she finally stopped conforming to the conventional picture of femininity she finally began to enjoy being a woman.

--Betty Friedan

If women had wives to keep house for them, to stay home with vomiting children, to get the car fixed, fight with the painters, run to the supermarket,...listen to everyone's problems,...just imagine the number of books that would be written, companies started, professorships filled, public offices that would be held, by women.

--Gail Sheehy

Women are never stronger than when they arm themselves with their weaknesses.

--Mme. du Deffande

Variability is one of the virtues of a woman. It avoids the crude requirement of polygamy. So long as you have one good wife you are sure to have a spiritual harem.

--G. K. Chesterton

What is woman?—only one of Nature's agreeable blunders.

--Mrs. Hannah Cowley

The entire being of a woman is a secret which should be kept.

--Isak Dinesen

A woman does not spend all of her time in buying things; she spends part of it in taking them back.

--Edgar Watson Howe

If woman had no existence save in the fiction written by men, one would imagine her a person of the utmost importance; very various: heroic and mean; splendid and sordid; infinitely beautiful and hideous in the extreme; as great as a man, some think even greater.

--Virginia Woolf

Don't ask for rights. Take them. An' don't let anny wan give thim to ye. A right that is handed to ye for nawthin' has somethin' th' matter with it.

--Finley Peter Dunne

The *Bible* and the Church have been the greatest stumbling blocks in the way of women's emancipation.

--Elizabeth Cady  
Stanton (1896)

The major achievement of the women's movement in the 1970s was the Dutch treat.

--Nora Ephron

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

Women are traditionally trained to place others' needs first...their satisfaction to be in making it possible for others to use their abilities.

--Tillie Olsen

In all the social classes, with the exception of those privileged with money, abnegation and work are the supreme feminine virtues. The spirit of sacrifice is a question of honor: the more they suffer for the family, the more pride they feel.

--Isabel Allende

The body of a young woman is God's greatest achievement...Of course, He could have built it to last longer, but you can't have everything.

--Neil Simon

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

--Lady Mary Wortley  
Montagu

The only options open for girls then were of course mother, secretary or teacher. At least that's what we all thought and were preparing ourselves for. Now, I must say how lucky we are, as women, to live in an age where 'Dental Hygienist' has been added to the list.

--Roseanne Arnold

I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute.

--Rebecca West

We still think of a powerful man as a born leader and a powerful woman as an anomaly.

--Margaret Atwood

It is not the glass ceiling that holds women back from rising high, it is the children hanging on to their hems.

--Polly Toynebee

When two women feel sorry for each other, the chances are one has a baby and the other hasn't.

--Unknown

Women in America too easily accept the idea of their inferiority to men—if not actually, then in order to curry favour with men, who imagine it easier to live with inferiors than with equals.

--Pearl Buck

Women are too imaginative to have much power of reasoning.

--Marquise du Defand

She is like the rest of women—thinks two and two'll come to five, if she cries and bothers enough about it.

--George Eliot

The worst fact about woman is that she cries so easily. There's a vicious trick of the ducts for you. One blow in the places she minds about, loyalty, keeping things going, all that, and the waterworks start and she's cooked her own goose, for there's not a man who can forgive a woman for crying.

--Penelope Gilliatt

Women, on the whole, do not seem to fancy their sex. Their indictments are: Women are feline. Gossipy. Petty. Deadly competitive.

--Fannie Hurst

If she wants to get to the top, a woman must be prepared to work ninety per cent harder than a man.

--Margery Hurst

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

I have some women friends but I prefer men. Don't trust women. There is a built-in competition between women.

--Edna O'Brien

Woman can never be independent. No matter what a man may be —drunkard, gambler, thief; whether he be indelicate, a liar, a hypocrite, or cruel, or evil, or sick, unclean, malodorous—there will always be found one woman, nay ten women, who will lavish upon him their smiles, their kisses, all their gifts.

--Yvette Guilbert

Love, fidelity, maternity, are the most necessary, the most important, and the most sacred things in the life of a woman.

--George Sand

It is high time that women became women again. It is high time that women became glamorous, inspiring creatures again. It is psychologically impossible for the woman, who looks like a sheared, shorn male, to think, or feel, or fascinate like a female.

--Elizabeth Arden

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

Women, instead of trying to conquer on the field, urged on by war-like instincts, pushing themselves into business, journalism, and even commerce, should remember that independence is grand, but that mixing in affairs makes them eventually lose the gentleness and sweetness that is the one thing given them to hold man's devotion.

--Eleonora Duse

In order to achieve success, the career woman must look like a woman, act like a lady, think like a man, and work like a dog.

--Caroline K. Simon

A girl can have both a career and a home—if she knows how to put both of them first.

--Unknown

You never hear of a man being asked how he manages to combine marriage with a career.

--Unknown

The question that confronts every girl is whether she wants a career or just one husband.

--Unknown

A career woman is one who goes out and earns a man's salary instead of staying home and taking it from him.

--Unknown

Charm is a glow within a woman which casts a most becoming light on others.  
--John Mason Brown

Charm is to a woman what perfume is to a flower.  
--Evan Esar

Women's faults are many  
Men have only two:  
Everything they say  
And everything they do.  
--Robert Pain VanZant

Every great man has a woman behind him...And every great woman has some man  
or other in front of her, tripping her up.  
--Dorothy L. Syers

Behind every good man is a good woman—I mean an exhausted one.  
--Sarah, Duchess of York

As usual there's a great woman behind every idiot.  
--John Lennon

Behind ever successful man you'll find a woman who has nothing to wear.  
--L. Grant Glickman

The road to success is filled with women pushing their husbands along.  
--Lord Dewar

And behind every man who is a failure there's a woman, too!  
--John Ruge

Behind every great woman is a man telling her she's ignoring him.  
--Unknown

When women kiss, it always reminds me of prize-fighters shaking hands.  
--H. L. Mencken

The only way women could have equal rights nowadays would be to surrender some.  
--Burton Hillis

Do you know why God withheld the sense of humour from women? That we may love you (men) instead of laughing at you.

--Mrs. Patrick Campbell

The hostilities that arise over housework...are crushing the daughters of my generation....Change takes time, but men's continued obliviousness to home responsibilities is causing women everywhere to expire of trivialities.

--Mary Kay Blakely

After decades of unappreciated drudgery, American women just don't do housework any more—that is, beyond the minimum that is required in order to clear a path from the bedroom to the front door so they can get off to work in the morning.

--Barbara Ehrenreich

Even when couples share more equitably in the work at home, women do two-thirds of the daily jobs at home, like cooking and cleaning up—jobs that fix them into a rigid routine. Most women cook dinner and most men change the oil in the family car. But dinner needs to be prepared every evening around six o'clock, whereas the car oil needs to be changed every six months, any day around that time, any time that day....Men thus have more control over when they make their contributions than women do.

--Arlie Hochschild

Most women without children spend much more time than men on housework; with children, they devote more time to both housework and child care. Just as there is a wage gap between men and women in the workplace, there is a 'leisure gap' between them at home. Most women work one shift at the office or factory and a 'second shift' at home.

--Arlie Hochschild

What is sad for women of my generation is that they weren't supposed to work if they had families. What were they to do when the children were grown—watch raindrops coming down the windowpane?

--Jacqueline Kennedy  
Onassis

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

Ideas about mothers have swung historically with the roles of women. When women were needed to work the fields or shops, experts claimed that children didn't need them much. Mothers, who might be too soft and sentimental, could even be bad for children's character development. But when men left home during the Industrial Revolution to work elsewhere, women were 'needed' at home. The cult of domesticity and motherhood became a virtue that kept women in their place.

--Sandra Scarr

The Depression-era generation of mothers, reared on the values of flag, Mom, and apple pie, believed in self-sacrifice and commitment to others. For them, the worst fate was to be independent: a spinster, or married to a man who couldn't support his family on his salary alone, and have to work. Their daughters, jolted by Vietnam, the sexual revolution, and feminism, were largely committed to themselves. For them, the worst fate was to be dependent.

--Victoria Secunda

I thought about all of us women and how we spend half our lives rebelling against our mothers and the next half rebelling against our daughters.

--Lois Wyse

What had really caused the women's movement was the additional years of human life. At the turn of the century women's life expectancy was forty-six; now it was nearly eighty. Our groping sense that we couldn't live all those years in terms of motherhood alone was 'the problem that had no name.' Realizing that it was not some freakish personal fault but our common problem as women had enabled us to take the first steps to change our lives.

--Betty Friedan

For most women who are considering it, single motherhood is not their first choice, but it's not their last one either. They would prefer a husband in their family, but they'd rather have a family without one than no family at all.

--Anne Cassidy

Diamonds may have been a girl's best friend in an era when a woman's only hope of having a high family income was to marry a man who was well-off, but today, marketable skills that will enable a woman to command a good income over her lifetime are a better investment.

--Grace Baruch, Rosalind  
Barnett, and Caryl  
Rivers

If women's role in life is limited solely to housewife/mother, it clearly ends when she can no longer bear more children and the children she has borne leave home.

--Betty Friedan

An accurate charting of the American woman's progress through history might look more like a corkscrew tilted slightly to one side, its loops inching closer to the line of freedom with the passage of time—but like a mathematical curve approaching infinity, never touching its goal....Each time, the spiral turns her back just short of the finish line.

--Susan Faludi

Recently we've been hearing a lot about women 'having it all.' Myself, I think that is not really an accurate description of female lives today. It seems to me that what we have been up to is doing it all.

--Sylvia Ann Hewlett

Girls have long been evaluated on the basis of appearance and caught in myriad double binds: achieve, but not too much, be polite, but be yourself, be feminine and adult; be aware of our cultural heritage, but don't comment on the sexism....Girls are trained to be less than who they really are. They are trained to be what the culture wants of its young women, not what they themselves want to become.

--Mary Pipher

Indeed, it is that ambiguity and ambivalence which often is so puzzling in women—the quality of shifting from child to woman, the seeming helplessness one moment and the utter self-reliance the next that baffle us, that seem most difficult to understand. These are the qualities that make her a mystery, the qualities that provoked Freud to complain, 'What does a woman want?'

--Lillian Breslow Rubin

That myth—that image of the madonna-mother—has disabled us from knowing that, just as men are more than fathers, women are more than mothers. It has kept us from hearing their voices when they try to tell us their aspirations...kept us from believing that they share with men the desire for achievement, mastery, competence—the desire to do something for themselves.

--Lillian Breslow Rubin

No one—man or woman—can have it all without support from the workplace and genuine help at home. Women, regardless of how they have chosen to lead their lives, can now breathe a collective sigh of relief that superwoman is dead.

--Deborah J. Swiss

It was a lot to carry out of a childhood—all those textured layers of thwarted dreams rumbling under the fifties patina—but a lot of us did it. In those manicured lives and choreographed marriages there was an often-pronounced loneliness, an emptiness that we would try to fill with our own accomplishments. And our role, the one we would have so much trouble trying to shed later, was simply to be the best little girls in the world, the high-achieving, make-no-waves, properly behaved little kittens.

--Anne Taylor Fleming

A few women warrant our attention not because they have the answer but because they have rejected the mentality that insists there must be one answer. What makes them role models is not how much or how little they work, how many or how few hats they wear, but rather how well they understand, and accept that for all rewards there will be commensurate sacrifices; for all gains, some loss; for any pleasure, some pain.

--Melinda M. Marshall

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

For my part, I have no hesitation in saying that although the American woman never leaves her domestic sphere and is in some respects very dependent within it, nowhere does she enjoy a higher station....if anyone asks me what I think the chief cause of the extraordinary prosperity and growing power of this nation, I should answer that it is due to the superiority of their woman.

--Alexis De Tocqueville

I long for a land that does not yet exist, a place where women are valued both for their intellects and their motherhood and where choices between career and nurturing are somehow less stark.

--Gabrielle Glaser

Mental health data from the 1950's on middle-aged women showed them to be a particularly distressed group, vulnerable to depression and feelings of uselessness. This isn't surprising. If society tells you that your main role is to be attractive to men and you are getting crow's feet, and to be a mother to children and yours are leaving home, no wonder you are distressed.

--Grace Baruch, Rosalind  
Barnett, and Caryl  
Rivers

The 'female culture' has shifted more rapidly than the 'male culture'; the image of the go-get 'em woman has yet to be fully matched by the image of the let's take-care-of-the-kids-together man. More important, over the last thirty years, men's underlying feelings about taking responsibility at home have changed much less than women's feelings have changed about forging some kind of identity at work.

--Arlie Hochschild

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

The influx of women into paid work and her increased power raise a woman's aspirations and hopes for equal treatment at home. Her lower wage and status at work and the threat of divorce reduce what she presses for and actually expects.

--Arlie Hochschild

Current conflicts and guilt about being a woman who is a mother and a person in her own right are a socially defined malaise, not an individual problem....The conflict is not between being a mother and having a career; it is between nineteenth-century ideas about children and today's ideas about women.

--Sandra Scarr

The myth of superwoman has hung on long after the media stopped airing fantasy-based commercials about working women's lives: here she comes, home from the office after 12 hours of high-powered negotiations in the executive suite. Her designer suit is still fresh and unwrinkled, her face radiant and unlined as she opens her arms to greet her two adorable children—and sends a seductive glance toward her handsome husband, beaming proudly in the background. Watch her as, with one smooth motion, she slips off her jacket and into a dainty apron as she glides toward the spotless kitchen to create a three-course meal for her beloved family. After dinner she will check the children's French homework and read them a chapter of *Jane Eyre* before tucking the little cherubs into bed. While her husband watches the late-night news, she will disappear into the den to make an overseas call that will clinch a multinational deal for her company.

--Deborah J. Swiss

A 'super person' is one who expects to manage a career, home, and family with complete ease, expecting to maintain a perfect job, a perfect marriage, a perfect house, and perfect control of the children.

--Joyce Portner

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

It is undeniable that a woman's ability to stretch and pursue her total competence outside the home and get paid what she's worth for it makes for happier and more fulfilled women.

--Kyle D. Pruett

The only difference between men and women is that women are able to create new little human beings in their bodies while simultaneously writing books, driving tractors, working in offices, planting crops—in general, doing everything men do.

--Erica Jong

Knowing how beleaguered working mothers truly are—knowing because I am one of them—I am still amazed at how one need only say 'I work' to be forgiven all expectation, to be assigned almost a handicapped status that no decent human being would burden further with demands. 'I work' has become the universally accepted excuse, invoked as an all-purpose explanation for bowing out, not participating, letting others down, or otherwise behaving inexcusably.

--Melinda M. Marshall

(In answer to the question, 'How can you be both a lawmaker and a mother?') I have a brain and a uterus, and I use both.

--Pat Schroeder

'Working mother' is a misnomer....It implies that any mother without a definite career is lolling around eating bon-bons, reading novels, and watching soap operas. But the word 'mother' is already a synonym for some of the hardest, most demanding work ever shouldered by any human....It is one she cannot easily give up for several decades. It can be slavery, joy in work, a magnificent career. It can be failure or triumph, but it can never be insignificant or unimportant since it is one 'job' affecting the outcome of another's life.

--Liz Smith

If we confine ourselves to one life role, no matter how pleasant it seems at first, we starve emotionally and psychologically. We need a change and balance in our daily lives. We need sometimes to dress up and sometimes to lie around in torn jeans....Even a grimy factory can afford some relief from a grimy kitchen and vice versa.

--Faye J. Crosby

Mothers work outside the home for many reasons; one of them is almost always because their families need their income to live up to their standards for their children.

--Kenneth Keniston

In different life prints, stress will be felt intensely at different times. The woman who is trying to juggle young children and a demanding job may feel the most pressure in her late twenties and early thirties, but by her forties her investment in the job will be paying off and the demands of the family will be lessening. The woman who has been a homemaker in a very traditional pattern may experience a great deal of stress around the issue of redefining her life as the active role of mothering comes to an end.

--Grace Baruch, Rosalind  
Barnett, and Caryl  
Rivers

I'm real ambivalent about (working mothers). Those of us who have been in the women's movement for a long time know that we've talked a good game of 'go out and fulfill your dreams' and 'be everything you were meant to be.' But by the same token, we want daughters-in-law who are going to stay home and raise our grandchildren.

--Erma Bombeck

Many women who used to be full-time mothers are discovering that outside work gives them friends, challenges, variety, money, independence; it makes them feel better about themselves, and therefore lets them be better parents.

--Wendy Coppedge  
Sanford

For the mother who has opted to stay home, the question remains: Having perfected her role as a caretaker, can she abdicate control to less practiced individuals? Having put all her identity eggs in one basket, can she hand over the basket freely? Having put aside her own ambitions, can she resist imposing them on her children? And having set one example, can she teach another?

--Melinda M. Marshall

Both at-home and working mothers can over-meet their mothering responsibilities. In order to justify their jobs, working mothers can over-nurture, over-connect with, and over-schedule their children into activities and classes. Similarly, some at-home mothers...can make at-home mothering into a bigger deal than it is, over stimulating, overeducating, and overwhelming their children with purposeful attention.

--Jean Marzollo

Women find ways to give sense and meaning to daily life—ways to be useful in the community, to keep mind active and soul growing even while they change diapers and cook vegetables.

--Lillian Breslow Rubin

I have the strong impression that contemporary middle-class women do seem prone to feelings of inadequacy. We worry that we do not measure up to some undefined level, some mythical idealized female standard. When we see some women juggling with apparent ease, we suspect that we are grossly inadequate for our own obvious struggles.

--Faye J. Crosby

Is it impossible not to wonder why a movement which professes concern for the fate of all women has dealt so unkindly, contemptuously, so destructively, with so significant a portion of its sisterhood. Can it be that those who would reorder society perceive as the greater threat not the chauvinism of men or the pernicious attitudes of our culture, but rather the impulse to mother within women themselves?

--Elaine Heffner

Women of my age in America are at the mercy of two powerful and antagonistic traditions. The first is the ultra-domestic fifties with its powerful cult of motherhood; the other is the strident feminism of the seventies with its attempt to clone the male competitive model....Only in America are these ideologies pushed to extremes.

--Sylvia Ann Hewlett

A man is judged by his deeds, a woman by her misdeeds.

--Unknown

Women are all the same—they all want to be different.

--Unknown

In the battle of the sexes women rely on two weapons—cosmetics and tears.

--Unknown

The Nineteenth Amendment—I think that's the one that made Women humans by Act of Congress.

—Will Rogers

There is only one tragedy in a woman's life: her past is always her lover, and her future invariably her husband.

--Oscar Wilde

Women have a less accurate measure of time than men: there is a clock in Adam, none in Eve.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

There's no such thing as equality between the sexes—whoever heard of a housewife retiring?

--Unknown

Of all the domestic animals invented for the service of man, the most useful is woman.

--Max O'Rell

The war of the sexes is not between man and woman but between women and other women.

--Unknown

Somewhere in the shadow cast by every famous man is a feminine victim.

--Jules Renard

To be a woman is something so strange, so confusing and so complicated that only a woman could put up with it.

--Kierkegaard

Women are the sex which believes that if you charge it, it's not spending; and if you add a cherry to it, it's not intoxicating.

--Bill Vaughan

Woman is the only creature that can be found with wool over its body, fur on its shoulders, leather on its feet, and feathers on its head.

--Unknown

No man is as anti-feminist as a really feminine woman.

--Frank O'Connor

Sex prejudice is so ingrained in our society that many who practice it are simply unaware that they are hurting women. It is the last socially acceptable prejudice.

--Bernice Sandler

We are indebted to women, first for life itself, and then for making it worth having.

--C. Nestell Bovee

The only area where women have achieved equal status is in the profession of acting, and that is because there they are a necessity.

--William Bayer

Birth control is as 'unnatural' as a pocket handkerchief or false teeth.

--Archbishop of York

I see little hope for a peaceful world until men are excluded from the realm of foreign policy altogether and all decisions concerning international relations are reserved for women, preferably married ones.

--W. H. Auden

Women when they are in power are much harsher than men. Much more cruel. Much more bloodthirsty.

--Mohammed Riza  
Pahlevi

The traits that compose the core of the female personality are feminine narcissism, masochism and passivity.

--Dr. J. Robert Willson

Ms.—A syllable which sounds like a bumblebee breaking wind.

--Hortense Calisher

Women are the only oppressed group in our society that lives in intimate association with our oppressors.

--Evelyn Cunningham

No one should have to dance backward all their lives.

--Jill Ruckelshaus

Men have been trained and conditioned by women, not unlike the way Pavlov conditioned his dogs, into becoming their slaves. As compensation for their labors men are given periodic use of women's vaginas.

--Esther Vilar

The ability to have our own way, and at the same time convince others they are having their own way, is a rare thing among men. Among women it is as common as eyebrows.

--Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Social progress can be measured with precision by the social position of the female sex.

--Karl Marx

If the value of a wife's services in a home were included in the U.S. gross national income, that figure would double in a year.

--Julia Montgomery  
Walsh

I am on trial every time they sit down to eat, every time they put on a white shirt.

--Consuelo Saah Baehr

Women are smarter than men because they listen.

--Phil Donahue

Woman is a constipated biped with a backache.

--J. P. Greenhill

The strongest evidence to prove that God exists is a beautiful woman.

--Giovanni Leone

After an acquaintance of ten minutes many women will exchange confidences that a man would not reveal to a lifelong friend.

--Page Smith

One of the mistakes women have made is to romanticize life in the rose-covered cottage and then, discovering their error, proceed to romanticize life in the working world.

--Juanita M. Kreps

I do not believe in using women in combat, because females are too fierce.  
--Margaret Mead

A woman will buy anything she thinks a store is losing money on.  
--Kin Hubbard

Many books today suggest that the mass of women lead lives of noisy desperation.  
--Peter S. Prescott

The women's movement...would probably run more smoothly if men were running it.  
--Bob Melvin

So much has been said and sung of beautiful young girls, why doesn't somebody wake up to the beauty of old women?  
--Harriet Beecher Stowe

Never trust a woman who will not lie about her age after thirty. She is unwomanly and unhuman and there is no knowing what crimes she will commit.  
--Gertrude Atherton

No matter how lonely you get or how many birth announcements you receive, the trick is not to get frightened. There's nothing wrong with being alone.  
--Wendy Wasserstein

Being alone and liking it is, for a woman, an act of treachery, an infidelity far more threatening than adultery.  
--Molly Haskell

I wonder if living alone makes one more alive. No precious energy goes in disagreement or compromise. No need to augment others, there is just yourself, just truth—a morsel—and you.  
--Florida Scott-Maxwell

We are not afraid to rock the boat. Making waves. This is what Asian American women have done and will continue to do.  
--*Asian Women United of California*

The central argument of the backlash is that women's equality is responsible for women's unhappiness.

--Susan Faludi

The stronger women get, the more men love football.

--Mariah Burton Nelson

A woman's biography—with about eight famous historical exceptions—so often turns out to be the story of a man and the woman who helped his career.

--Catherine Drinker  
Bowen

To be black and female, in a society which is both racist and sexist, is to be in a unique position of having nowhere to go but up.

--Rosemary Brown

Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others.

--Amelia Earhart

If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies, we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.

--Abigail Adams

The law cannot do it for us. We must do it for ourselves. Women in this country must become revolutionaries.

--Shirley Chisholm

Women are half the people; women should be half the Congress.

--Jeannette Rankin

All too often, women do not take care of each other. Rather than supporting each other, they engage in petty competitive jealousy as they climb the ladder to success. That ladder is hard enough for women to climb. I challenge you as representatives of your female generation to fix what my generation hasn't.

--Francine Pascal

I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb...and I also know that I'm not blonde.

--Dolly Parton

I want to have children, but my friends scare me. One of my friends told me she was in labor for 36 hours. I don't even want to do anything that feels good for 36 hours.

--Rita Rudner

Some of us are becoming the men we wanted to marry.

--Gloria Steinem

## **THE STAGES OF WOMAN**

Age 3: She looks at herself and sees a Queen.

Age 8: She looks at herself and sees Cinderella.

Age 15: She looks at herself and sees an Ugly Sister (Mum I can't go to school looking like this!)

Age 20: She looks at herself and sees 'too fat/too thin, too short/too tall, too straight/too curly'- but decides she's going out anyway.

Age 30: She looks at herself and sees 'too fat/too thin, too short/too tall, too straight/too curly' - but decides she doesn't have time to fix it, so she's going out anyway.

Age 40: She looks at herself and sees 'clean' and goes out anyway.

Age 50: She looks at herself and sees 'I am' and goes wherever she wants to go.

Age 60: She looks at herself and reminds herself of all the people who can't even see themselves in the mirror anymore. Goes out and conquers the world.

Age 70: She looks at herself & sees wisdom, laughter and ability, goes out and enjoys life.

Age 80: Doesn't bother to look. Just puts on a purple hat and goes out to have fun with the world.

--Unknown

My understanding of women goes only as far as the pleasures.

—Michael Caine

I love women. They're the best thing ever created. If they want to be like men and come down to our level, that's fine.

—Mel Gibson

There are worse occupations in this world than feeling a woman's pulse.

—Laurence Sterne

I wonder why it is, that young men are always cautioned against bad girls. Anyone can handle a bad girl. It's the good girls men should be warned against.

—David Niven

Guys are like dogs. They keep coming back. Ladies are like cats. Yell at a cat one time...they're gone.

—Lenny Bruce

One of the most difficult things in the world is to convince a woman that even a bargain costs money.

—Edgar Watson Howe

I chased a girl for two years only to discover that her tastes were exactly like mine: We were both crazy about girls.

—Groucho Marx

When women go wrong, men go right after them.

—Mae West

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

— Steve Martin

A woman's mind is cleaner than a man's. She changes it more often.

—Oliver Herford

At 38 years, I finally got me the woman that said those six words I wanted all my life to hear: 'My dad owns a liquor store.'

—Mark Klein

Women are like cars: we all want a Ferrari, sometimes want a pickup truck, and end up with a station wagon.

—Tim Allen

Why would I make one woman so miserable when I can make so many women very happy?

—Benny Hill

I saw a woman wearing a sweatshirt with ‘Guess’ on it. I said, ‘Thyroid problem?’

—Emo Philips

Instead of getting married again, I’m going to find a woman I don’t like and just give her a house.

—Lewis Grizzard

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

—Les Dawson

Women want men, careers, money, children, friends, luxury, comfort, independence, freedom, respect, love, and three dollar pantyhose that won’t run.

—Phyllis Diller

A woman’s guess is much more accurate than a man’s certainty.

—Rudyard Kipling

What would bug a guy from the Taliban more than seeing a gay woman in a suit surrounded by Jews?

—Ellen DeGeneres (as  
Spoken at the 2001  
Emmy’s)

Behind every successful man is a woman, behind her is his wife.

—Groucho Marx

It’s the good girls who keep diaries; the bad girls never have the time.

—Tallulah Bankhead

A psychiatrist is a fellow who asks you a lot of expensive questions your wife asks for nothing.

—Joey Adams

Man has will, but woman has her way.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

If women didn't exist, all the money in the world would have no meaning.  
—Aristotle Onassis

A woman knows she's wearing the right dress, when her man wants to take it off.  
—Robert Paul

A woman drove me to drink and I didn't even have the decency to thank her.  
—W. C. Fields

A girl phoned me the other day and said ... Come on over, there's nobody home. I went over. Nobody was home.  
—Rodney Dangerfield

Women are like elephants. I like to look at 'em, but I wouldn't want to own one.  
--W. C. Fields

The higher the mental development of woman, the less possible it is for her to meet a congenial male who will see in her, not only sex, but also the human being, the friend, the comrade and strong individuality, who cannot and ought not lose a single trait of her character.  
--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'd much rather be a woman than a man. Women can cry, they can wear cute clothes, and they're the first to be rescued off sinking ships.  
--Gilda Radner

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

If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?  
--Milton Berle

Too often the great decisions are originated and given form in bodies made up wholly of men, or so completely dominated by them that whatever of special value women have to offer is shunted aside without expression.  
--Eleanor Roosevelt

Women are like teabags. We don't know our true strength until we are in hot water!  
--Eleanor Roosevelt

No doubt exists that all women are crazy; it's only a question of degree.  
--W. C. Fields

There are only three things women need in life: food, water, and compliments.  
--Chris Rock

A woman is a person who reaches for a chair when she answers the telephone.  
—Milton Wright

Women want mediocre men, and men are working hard to be as mediocre as possible.  
--Margaret Mead

Whether women are better than men I cannot say—but I can say they are certainly no worse.  
--Golda Meir

To be successful, a woman has to be better at her job than a man.  
--Golda Meir

The history of man's opposition to women's emancipation has been more interesting than the story of the emancipation itself.  
--Virginia Woolf

That we have not made any respectable attempt to meet the special educational needs of women is the clearest possible evidence that our educational objectives have been based on the vocational patterns of men.  
--Betty Friedan

Society, being codified by man, decrees that woman is inferior; she can do away with this inferiority only by destroying the male's superiority.  
--Simone de Beauvoir

Some women can be fooled all of the time, and all women can be fooled some of the time, but the same woman can't be fooled by the same man in the same way more than half of the time.  
--Helen Rowland

## **BITCHOLOGY**

When I stand up for  
myself and my beliefs,  
they call me a bitch.

When I stand up for  
those I love, they call me a bitch.

When I speak my mind, think my own thoughts or do things my own way, they  
call me a bitch.

Being a bitch means I won't compromise what's in my heart.  
It means I live my life MY way.

It means I won't allow anyone to step on me.

When I refuse to tolerate injustice and speak against it, I am defined as a  
bitch.

The same thing happens when I take time for myself instead of being  
everyone's maid, or when I act a little selfish.

It means I have the courage and strength to allow my self to be who I truly  
am and won't become anyone else's idea of what they think I 'should' be.

I am outspoken,  
opinionated and determined. I want what I want and there is nothing wrong  
with that!

So try to stomp on me,  
try to douse my inner flame, try to squash every ounce of beauty I hold  
within me.

You won't succeed.

And if that makes me a bitch,  
so be it.  
I embrace the title and  
am proud to bear it.

B - Babe  
I - In  
T - Total  
C - Control of  
H - Herself

B = Beautiful  
I = Intelligent  
T = Talented  
C = Charming  
H = Hell of a Woman

B = Beautiful  
I = Individual  
T = That  
C = Can  
H = Handle anything

--Unknown

The reason women don't play football is because 11 of them would never wear the same outfit in public.

--Phyllis Diller

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

--Helen Rowland

Feminists fought for respect and equality: they never promised a perfect world, where nonbelching princes would gallop up at exactly the right time and impregnate us. They told us to be wary of fairy tales, and not to spend our lives waiting for them to come true.

--Julia Baird

(On having children) I own it tried me sorely; one feels so pinned down—one's wings clipped—only half oneself...I think our sex a most unenviable one.

--Queen Victoria

There is nothing more boring for an intelligent woman than to spend endless amounts of time with small children.

--Doris Lessing

That's the key to having it all: stop expecting it to look like what you thought it was going to look like.

--Cindy Chupack

A study in the *Washington Post* says that women have better verbal skills than men. I just want to say to the authors of that study: 'Duh.'

--Conan O'Brien

I dance and sing and play the guitar and listen to *NPR*. I write letters to my family, my congressional representatives, and to newspaper editors. My kids and I play tag and catch, we paint, we explore, we climb trees and plant gardens together. We bike instead of using the car. We read, we talk, we laugh. Life is good. I never dust.

—Sandra Tsing Loh

Don't we all know them, those defiant, dreadlocked young lovelies with their useless degrees in studio art, experimental fiction, modern dance, and gender studies, lactose-intolerant and unemployable?

--Linda Hirshman

Employed women expressed a higher degree of enjoyment for shopping, preparing food, taking care of their children, and doing housework than for working at their jobs—an activity that was ranked at the next-to-lowest level of enjoyment, just above commuting to work.

--Neil Gilbert

When it came to interactions with different partners, the women ranked interactions with their children as more enjoyable than those with clients/customers, coworkers, and bosses.

--Neil Gilbert

Work...family, I'm doing it all. But here's the secret I share with so many other nanny-and housekeeper-less mothers I see working the same balance: my house is trashed. It is strewn with socks and tutus. My minivan is awash in paper wrappers (I can't lie—several are evidence of our visits to McDonald's Playland, otherwise known as 'my second office'). My girls went to school today in the T-shirts they slept in. But so what? My children and I spend 70 hours a week of high-to-poor quality time together. We enjoy ourselves.

--Sandra Tsing Loh

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

Here's my list of dirty chores: buying groceries, carting them home and putting them away; cooking meals and washing dishes and pots; doing the laundry; digging out the place when things get out of control; washing floors. The list could go on but the sheer necessities are bad enough.

--Pat Mainardi

A man's got to do what a man's got to do. A woman must do what he can't.  
--Rhonda Hansome

Nymphomaniac: a woman as obsessed with sex as an average man.  
--Mignon McLaughlin

I run like a girl. Try to keep up.  
—T-Shirt Slogan

A woman's favorite position is CEO.  
—Bumper Sticker

A woman with dreams always has problems.  
--Maya Obama

When women are depressed they either eat or go shopping. Men invade another country.  
--Elayne Boosler

Women are made to be loved, not understood.  
--Oscar Wilde

Sooner or later, we're all made aware of the über-politics of the body. The real deal that's never stopped churning away down in the engine room is the physical reality of our marvelous, mysterious, meat-puppet bodies in all their accident-waiting-to-happen splendor. Of course, splendor isn't the word that leaps to mind when the average hapless 12- or 13-year-old hears and feels that first all-consuming full-body 'uh oh' that marks what the happy-talkers love to romanticize with commencement-speech rhetoric as 'the entry to womanhood' or some other shiny, sugared-up BS. Maybe they mean well, and figure that such a euphemism sounds so much better than '40 years of blood, sweat, and depression bordering on occasional madness.'

--Roseanne Barr

If a woman tells you she's twenty and looks sixteen, she's twelve. If she tells you she's twenty-six and looks twenty-six, she's damn near forty.

--Chris Rock

Menopause is the victory lap over the curse of being born female!

--Roseanne Barr

I don't mean to insult or diminish women who aren't mothers. In fact—after holding the world up to the light and subjecting it to a quick exam I call 'Do the math!'—I'm here to say, we could use a lot more women who don't become mothers of their own offspring, but instead Mother the world in a more expansive way—and help to alleviate some of the misery and need to countless millions of people who are here already.

--Roseanne Barr

During menopause, a woman can feel like the only way she can continue to exist for 10 more seconds inside her crawling, burning skin is to walk screaming into the sea—grandly, epically, and terrifyingly, like a 15-foot-tall Greek tragic figure wearing a giant, pop-eyed wooden mask. Or she may remain in the kitchen and begin hurling objects at her family: telephones, coffee cups, plates. Or, as my mother did in the 1970s, she may just eerily disappear into her bedroom, like a tide washing out—curtains drawn, door locked, dead to the world, for days, weeks, months (some moms went silent for years). Oh, for a tribal cauldron to dive into, a harvest moon to howl at, or even an online service that provides—here's an idea!—demon gypsy lovers.

--Sandra Tsing Loh

A woman once told me that when her mother was approaching the age of menopause, her father sat the whole family down and said, 'Kids, your mother may be going through some changes now, and I want you to be prepared. Your Uncle Ralph told me that when your Aunt Carol went through the change, she threw a leg of lamb right out the window!' Although this story fits beautifully into the stereotype of the 'crazy' menopausal woman, it should not be overlooked that throwing the leg of lamb out the window may have been Aunt Carol's outward expression of the process going on within her soul: the reclaiming of self. Perhaps it was her way of saying how tired she was of waiting on her family, of signaling to them that she was past the cook/chauffeur/dishwasher stage of life. For many women, if not most, part of this reclamation process includes getting in touch with anger and, perhaps, blowing up at loved ones for the first time.

--Christiane Northrup

If I had known what it would be like to have it all - I might have been willing to settle for less.

--Lily Tomlin

I am a member of the 'sandwich' generation, that group that must simultaneously care for elderly parents and support children. Never mind that I have lost the dreamlike 40-ish haze I was in during nursing and babyhood and toddlerhood, when the peach fuzz of my daughters' cheeks made for a heady narcotic, when my heart thrilled at all their colorful pieces of kinderart, when I honestly enjoyed—oh the novelty, for someone who had pursued abstract subjects in college and graduate school for 10 years!—baking birthday cakes. Fifty-ish now, when I squat over to pick up their little socks and snip quesadillas into little bowls and yank fine hair out of their brushes, as I have now for the thousandth time, I feel like I'm in a dream, but a very bad, very sour-scented dream. I am fast losing patience with the day job of motherhood. Worse yet, I'll be in the full fires of menopause just when my girls are in the full fires of adolescence! (As my good friend, the family therapist Wendy Mogel, observes, in her calm Zen/Torah-like way, 'What wonderful insight you'll have into their mood swings.')

--Sandra Tsing Loh

Having a profession is not incompatible with being a good mother or a good wife....Women's lives are different from men's lives. We make different trade-offs. We make different sacrifices. And we get different rewards.

--Marilyn Quayle

I'm sick of hearing how far we've come—about the isolated promotions of occasional women, about the 'pipeline' of potential female leaders rising in the ranks. That fact is that so far as leadership is concerned women in nearly every realm are nearly nowhere—hardly any better off than they were a generation ago.

--Barbara Kellerman

Women are regarded as the nicer, kinder sex and thus have a cultural stereotype that is in general more positive than that of men. But a nurturing stereotype can come back to bite women. People react very negatively to women who violate that stereotype.

--Alice Eagly and  
Janet S. Hyde

Women are no better or worse than men, in general. There are only good managers and bad managers. I have had good and bad experiences with both sexes. It completely depends upon the individual and not the sex.

--Dave Denison

Women tend to respond passive-aggressively, such as withholding needed information, spreading rumors, or the silent treatment. We learn these ways of coping very young on the playground and, sadly they stick.

--Christine Porath and  
Christine Pearson

I'm sick of getting e-mails from women managers who take everything so personally. I think it's keeping women from moving forward. Sometimes a business report just sucks, and a guy can take it....Women stew about it, e-mail about it, tweet about it. They've got to get away from that.

--Eve Tahmincioglu

Maybe it's the last year of med school when they say, 'I'll take a slightly less interesting specialty because I'm going to want more balance one day. Maybe it's the fifth year in a law firm when they say, 'I'm not even sure I should go for partner, because I know I'm going to want kids eventually.'...And from that moment, they start quietly leaning back. They don't pursue promotions or agree to overseas transfers. ...Do not lean back—lean in. Put your foot on the gas pedal and keep it there until the day you have made a decision.

--Sheryl Sandberg

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

Having control over your schedule is the only way that women who want to have a career and a family can make it work.

--Mary Matalin

Women are not making it to the top. A hundred and ninety heads of state; nine are women. Of all the people in parliament in the world, 13 percent are women. In the corporate sector, [the share of] women at the top—C-level jobs, board seats—tops out at 15, 16 percent.

--Sheryl Sandberg

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

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

Even when the stress was overwhelming—those days when I'd cry in the car on the way to work, asking myself 'Why am I doing this?'—I always knew the answer to that question: I believe in this president. I finally asked myself, 'Who needs me more?' And that's when I realized, it's somebody else's turn to do this job. I'm indispensable to my kids, but I'm not close to indispensable to the White House.

--Mary Matalin,  
Presidential  
Assistant

If we didn't start to learn how to integrate our personal, social, and professional lives, we were about five years away from morphing into the angry woman on the other side of a mahogany desk who questions her staff's work ethic after standard 12-hour workdays, before heading home to eat moo shoo pork in her lonely apartment.

--Kerry Rubin and  
Lia Macko

I needed a plan. I figured out that writing time was when Alex was asleep. So the minute I put him down for a nap or he fell asleep in the baby-swing, I went to my desk and started working on something—footnotes, reading, outlining, writing...I learned to do everything else with a baby on my hip.

--Elizabeth Warren

To be a strong woman, you don't have to give up on the things that define you as a woman. Empowering yourself doesn't have to mean rejecting motherhood, or eliminating the nurturing or feminine aspects of who you are.

--Lisa Jackson

Some women don't find happiness at home. Maybe some women do find happiness in their careers...Or in being alone. There isn't a singular goal for any person—man or woman—and yet feminism has sold us this prepackaged notion of success that, when you open it up, is totally undefined.

--Lindy West

Mozart had a sister, whom Mozart called 'the talented one.'

--Gloria Steinem

The thing that I ultimately know is that I can't do everything I'm doing, well. I can just try and juggle. And everybody in my family pays a price for my job. Nobody in my family pays a price for my husband's job.

--Mika Brzezinski

When I was younger, I struggled with the fact that work was my mother's first priority. But now that I am embarking on my own career, I realize that I could never have asked for a better role model. Work was the norm for my parents (particularly my mother), and I have ended up stronger for it. I couldn't be prouder that I am my mother's daughter.

--Mari Cohen

I have juggled like mad, with three wonderful kids, a husband I adore, and jobs that leave me perched perpetually on the edge of insanity. Like most working mothers, I have snuck out of meetings to attend piano recitals and missed track meets when a deadline was looming. I have sprinted through airports in the futile hope of catching an earlier flight home and tried to comfort a sobbing child when, inevitably, the plane was late. I delivered my first lecture in a suit that reeked of infant throw-up from earlier that morning and crashed the minivan into a tree as I raced to retrieve the correct ballet costume.

--Debora Spar

Rather than leaping with glee at the liberation that has befallen women since the 1960s, we are laboring instead under the double whammy of impossible expectations—the old-fashioned ones (to be good mothers and wives, impeccable housekeepers and blushing brides) and those wrought more recently (to be athletic, strong, sexually versatile, and wholly independent).

--Deborah Spar

A woman cannot work a 60-hour-per-week job and be the same kind of parent she would have been without the 60-hour-per-week job. No man can do this; no human can do this.

--Deborah Spar

Women are repeatedly berating themselves for failing at (the)...balancing act, and (quietly, invidiously) berating others when something inevitably slips. Think of the schadenfreude that erupts every time a high-profile woman hits a bump in either her career or her family life. Poor Condoleezza Rice, left without a boyfriend. Sloppy Hillary, whose hair is wrong again....She could not pull it off (snicker, snicker). She paid for her success. She Could. Not. Do. It. All.

--Deborah Spar

Women are working for major corporations but not leading them. Practicing medicine but rarely heading medical departments or hospitals. Running for political office but still not winning more than a token percentage of seats. As of 2012, women accounted for only 16 percent of partners at the country's largest law firms. And 15 percent of senior executives at Fortune 100 firms. They constituted only 10 percent of the country's aerospace engineers, 7 percent of its Hollywood directors, and 16 percent of its congressional representatives. And they still earn, on average, only 77 cents to every man's dollar.

--Deborah Spar

More than 50 years ago, the United States was roiled by the feminist and sexual revolutions, which together sought to bring women out of their household isolation and into a community devoted to achieving broader social goals. Yet far from rallying around these quaint echoes of sisterhood, we seem stuck today in a purgatory of perfection—each of us trying so hard to be everything that inevitably, inherently, we fail.

--Deborah Spar

Between 1965 and 2000, the number of working mothers in the United States rose from 45 to 78 percent of all mothers....Yet women were still devoting nearly 40 hours a week to family care: housework, child care, shopping. Men, by contrast, spent only 21, most of which were devoted to fairly discrete and flexible tasks like mowing the lawn, washing the car, and tossing softballs with the kids. (Try this. See who in any household schedules the kids' dental appointments. My own husband, lovely though he is, seems not to be aware that our children have teeth.)

--Deborah Spar

The only way that American women will ever fully solve the 'women's problem' is by recognizing the quest for perfection for what it is: a myth. No woman can have it all, and by using all as the standard of success, we are only condemning ourselves and our daughters to failure.

--Deborah Spar

Each time someone commented on how I'm always in a good mood or smiling, I felt more and more like a phony. If only they knew that, behind closed doors, I cried and crumbled under unrealistic expectations set not by peers or professors, but by me.

--Deborah Spar

The final adjustment lies mainly in the hands of women themselves. More depends on determination than even on ability. Will, not talent, governs the world.

--*The Atlantic* (1859)

Girls need to have all their grandmothers wanted them to have, while looking as pretty as their mothers wanted them to look....You try so hard to be who everyone wants you to be while attempting to maintain some kind of individuality and in the end you seem to lose everything.

--Deborah Spar

Feminism wasn't supposed to make us miserable. It was supposed to make us free; to give women the power to shape their fortunes and work for a more just world. Today, women have choices that their grandmothers could not have imagined. The challenge lies in recognizing that having choices carries the responsibility to make them wisely, striving not for perfection or the ephemeral all, but for lives and loves that matter.

--Deborah Spar

It is not merely true that the empire of the past has belonged to man, but that it has properly belonged to him; for it was an empire of the muscles, enlisting at best but the lower powers of the understanding. There can be no question that the present epoch is initiating an empire of the higher reason, of arts, affections, aspirations; and for that epoch the genius of woman has been reserved.

—'Ought Women to  
Learn the  
Alphabet?' in  
*The Atlantic* (1859)

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

--Unknown

A woman's place is in the house—and the senate.

—T-Shirt Slogan

There are millions of women who live alone in America. Some of them are widows. Some of them are divorced and between connections, some of them are odd, loners who prefer to keep their habits undisturbed.

--Anne Roiphe

Last year, nearly twice as many single women bought homes as did single men. And yet, what are our ideas about single people? Perverted misanthropes, crazy cat ladies, dating-obsessed shoe shoppers, etc.—all of them some form of terribly lonely.

--Kate Bolick

Men only go bad once they get rich, but women only get rich once they go bad.

--Chinese Proverb

In every society where women have power—whether humans or primates—the key is female bonding.

--Christopher Ryan

If you are going to pay serious attention to women—to their sense of themselves, their position (social, political, economic), their assumptions about the face they are presenting to their world, it helps a good deal if you know exactly what they are wearing.

--Caitlin Flanagan

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)

The sexual revolution's legacy, is the paradox of declining female happiness.

--Mary Eberstadt

In a 2009 study in which two Wharton School professors, using 35 years of General Social Survey data, found that despite educational and employment advances, women were reportedly less happy than they used to be.

--Sandra Tsing Loh

This sense of being at home is important to everyone's well-being. If you do not get enough of it, your happiness, resilience, energy, humor, and courage will decrease... Being at home feels safe; you have a sense of relief whenever you come home and close the door behind you... Home is the one place in the world. .. where you belong... Coming home is your major restorative in life. These are formidably good things, which you cannot get merely by finding true love or getting married or having children or landing the best job in the world—or even by moving into the house of your dreams.

--Sandra Tsing Loh

Women do not necessarily exist to be liked.

--Lena Dunham

Feminism is about the ability to choose what's right at each time of our lives.

--Gloria Steinem

The progress of man has never been impeded by his preconceived ideas regarding his abilities, his proper interests, and his appropriate activities. Woman has always been so hampered. For generations her existence was narrowly prescribed because she was considered an inferior creature lacking a soul and possessing but a rudimentary intellect... She is repeatedly reminded that the greatest scientists, musicians, and artists have never been numbered among her sex... She is encouraged to believe that her humble place among the geniuses has no relation to repression, but is due to an unknown factor in her physiologic construction... But why endlessly close one's eyes to present-day factors of environment and training which have an overwhelmingly inhibitory effect on feminine ambitions?

It is said that impressions obtained before the age of seven are sufficient to determine the course of action in adult life. If so, by the time she is seven it is definitely established that the little girl will never attempt to break through convention to make over society more to her liking. She will always endeavor to live up to man-made standards of her conduct, and will eventually become a well-disciplined housewife, subordinating her intellect and desire to those of her husband.

--Faith Fairfield, June  
(1926)  
*The Atlantic*

By empowering half the population with the responsibilities of citizenship, August 26, 1920—the day women gained the right to vote—allowed the U.S. to live up to its fundamental values of opportunity and equality.

--Neera Tanden

When I see two women kiss, I think of two boxers shaking hands.

—H. L. Mencken

About one-third of the women in this audience will be working full-time in 15 years. And almost all of you will be working for the guy you are sitting next to.

--Sheryl Sandberg  
in 2011 Address to  
Harvard Business  
Students

Women in politics, it has long been assumed, are trapped in a disabling web of double standards—presumed by voters to be weaker and less capable leaders, but punished for violating gender norms if they do act tough or get angry.

--Molly Ball

Many parts of the work...world are still plagued by sexism, or reward a particular sort of self-promotion that many women shy away from. Studies have repeatedly shown that women get more criticism and less praise in the workplace than men do. They are offered lower starting salaries, and are judged more negatively by prospective employers than are men with identical backgrounds. And unlike in school, the burden of fighting discrimination rests almost entirely on an individual, who must initiate grievance procedures against her boss.

--Garance  
Franke-Ruta

The behaviors that school rewards—studying, careful preparation, patient climbing from one level to the next—seem to give women an advantage academically, judging from the fact that they get higher grades in college than men do. Yet these behaviors aren't necessarily so helpful in the workplace. Out in the work world, people hire and promote based on personality as much as on formal qualifications, and very often networking can trump grinding away.

--Garance  
Frake-Ruta

Sensing they are not prepared for the world they have entered, many professional women seek still more academic credentials. I've come to think of this as intellectual primping—the frequently futile hope that one more degree will finally win notice, and with it, that perfect job or raise.

--Garance  
Frake-Ruta

Women may think the more degrees they get, the more chances they have of being hired, but they are swimming upstream.

--Anna Fels

Why is a woman still not safe when she's in her home?

--Tracy Chapman

We women don't care too much about getting our pictures on money as long as we can get our hands on it.

--Ivy Baker Priest

A man will go to war, fight and die for his country. But he won't get a bikini wax.

--Rita Rudner

Find a husband on campus before you graduate. Smart women can't (shouldn't) marry men who aren't at least their intellectual equal. As Princeton women, we have almost priced ourselves out of the market. Simply put, there is a very limited population of men who are as smart or smarter than we are. And I say again—you will never again be surrounded by this concentration of men who are worthy of you.

--Susan Patton

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

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

We have women in the military, but they don't put us in the front lines. They don't know if we can fight, if we can kill. I think we can. All the general has to do is walk over to the women and say, 'You see the enemy over there? They say you look fat in those uniforms.'

--Elayne Boosler

Parenting surely isn't for everyone, and those who choose to be childfree probably have made the right decision. Then again, it's hard to know for certain that one doesn't want children. Many don't, until they do.

--Kathleen Parker

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

It makes sense that when women are more than half the population that you have to have women politically empowered.

--Madeleine Albright

If women are ever to achieve real equality as leaders, then we have to stop accepting male behavior and male choices as the default and the ideal. We must insist on changing social policies and bending career tracks to accommodate our choices, too.

--Anne-Marie Slaughter

We hold ourselves back in ways both big and small, by lacking self-confidence, by not raising our hands, by pulling back when we should be leaning in.

--Sheryl Sandberg

If there remain some businesswomen who choose to put their children over their careers...we might not be witnesses to a national tragedy. We might instead find evidence of some of the best impulses of the human spirit.

--Caitlin Flanagan

Women today spend an inordinate amount of time attacking one another...Women in the workforce quietly whisper that female bosses are the worst; women on the playground indelicately dissect other mothers' choices to return to work. In my own experience, female students are liable to be particularly tough on female professors, and female professors, especially in mostly male environments, to be particularly critical of their younger female colleagues. Whenever I relate one of these stories to my husband, he sighs and offers the same remark. 'This,' he says, 'is why you people will never take over.' Slightly sexist, I know. But probably true.

--Debra Spar

As any woman who has ever sat around a mostly male table can attest, the presence of only one or two women around that table leaves them highlighted as 'the women.' Their voices are seen as representing 'the women's position.' They are looked upon when issues of diversity arise, or when the softer side of something needs to be addressed. And, most invidious, they are implicitly but constantly compared. Did Ann speak more eloquently than Beatrice? Was Beatrice nasty to Ann? As a result, Ann and Beatrice find themselves jostling, whether they mean to or not, to become the woman at whatever enterprise they serve. And women behind them on the ladder similarly scramble to take their places, subtly aware that there are only two slots. The result is more competition than is warranted; more of a buried sense that women must fight, not just for men's jobs, but among themselves.

--Debra Spar

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*

Today young women have opportunities....Heirs to 50 years of feminist advocacy, they can finally run companies like *Facebook* or media organizations such as *Time*. They can serve on the U.S. Supreme Court or direct the international Monetary Fund. They can apply to any college or graduate program in the country and...even hold combat positions in the U.S. Army. Thanks to the pill and the patch and *Roe v. Wade*, they can control their sexual and reproductive lives, choosing whether and when to have children, and with whom.

--Debora Spar

Insofar as this generation has adopted the Tiger Mom ethos, they have also—horribly and ironically—saddled themselves with the escalating burden of hyper-parenting: monitoring Charlie's piano practice, for example, or whisking Katie every weekend to her synchronized-skating competitions. Contrast this with the women of the *Mad Men* era, who were generally content to leave their less-coddled offspring to play in puddles, eat the occasional Twinkie, and even do their own homework.

--Debora Spar

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 U.S. economy is becoming a kind of traveling sisterhood: professional women leave home and enter the workforce, creating domestic jobs for other women to fill.

--Hanna Rosin

Of course I'm not supposed to admit that there is tri-annual torrential sobbing in my office, because it's bad for the feminist cause—But I have friends who stay home with their kids and they also have a tri-annual sob, so I think we should call it even.

--Tina Fey

It's crucial to recognize—and underscore and shout from the rooftops—that being a woman who matters does not mean being a woman who does it all. On the contrary, building a life of consequence demands a certain narrowing of vision, a commitment to excelling in one area, perhaps, but not all. Men do this all the time. And we applaud them for it. Take Steve Jobs, for example, truly a person of consequence. Was he a perfect father and husband? A buff athlete who volunteered regularly at community bake sales? I have no idea, because stories about him rarely touched upon these aspects. Ditto for Warren Buffett and even Barack Obama. We know that these men have lives beyond their jobs; we know they have children and spouses and lawns that occasionally need mowing. But we don't question their manhood when we evaluate their careers, or pry too deeply into the inner workings of their homes.

--Debra Spar

Rather than condemn Adele for a few extra pounds, we might just revel in her extraordinary music. (Does anyone care what Jay-Z weighs?)

--Debra Spar

Menopause is as much a 'disease' as adolescence, and it wasn't considered a problem until the 1960s, when drug-makers...effectively rebranded it a disorder of 'estrogen deficiency'—and that was the term they used when they were being polite. The 1966 industry-funded book *Feminine Forever* declared menopause 'a tragedy,' a 'living decay,' and asserted that in the absence of estrogen a woman would 'be condemned to witness the death of her own womanhood.' A 1977 ad for *Premarin*, an estrogen derived from pregnant horses' urine, shows a family cowering from their crazed matriarch: 'Almost any tranquilizer might calm her down,' reads the copy, 'but at her age estrogen might be what she really needs.'

--Jennifer Block

Good husbands—the selection of whom is the most important career choice young women can make.

--Sheryl Sandberg

Since 1996, women have earned more bachelor's degrees than men, and last year they started earning a greater number of master's and doctoral degrees. It is an outrage that the male-female wage gap persists, and yet, over the past 10 years, in almost every country in the developed world, it has shrunk. In developed countries, by most economic indicators, women's lives have improved relative to men's. Of the 15 fastest-growing job categories in the United States, 13 are dominated by women.

--Stephen Marche

The rise of women is not the result of any ideology or political movement; it is a result of the widespread realization, sometime after the Second World War, that families in which women work are families that prosper. And countries in which women work are countries that prosper. In 2006, a database created by the *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development* demonstrated what common sense tells us; with few exceptions, countries in which women have more economic and political power are richer than countries where women are relatively powerless. Patriarchy is damn expensive. That's why it's doomed.

--Stephen Marche

I want to close the leadership gap: to elect a woman president and 50 women senators; to ensure that women are equally represented in the ranks of corporate executives and judicial leaders. Only when women wield power in sufficient numbers will we create a society that genuinely works for all women. That will be a society that works for everyone.

--Anne-Marie  
Slaughter

Low-income mothers are far more likely to stay at home today than are upper-income mothers. Such women are forgoing paid work not because they refuse to lean in but because they can't earn enough money at their jobs to cover child care.

--Stephen Marche

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

--*Higher Education Act,*  
*Title IX 1965*

As I do more laundry, nudists seem less crazy.

—*toxicards.com*

In Muslim countries a woman is equal to a camel.

--Michael Lucas

If women ruled the world there would be no wars...just a bunch of countries not talking to each other.

--Chris Rock

Women often think that sex and love are the same thing. But they don't even have to go together.

—Virginia E. Johnson

French women avoid anything that demands too much effort for too little pleasure. They aren't racing to the top, because most don't consider it worth the game. They care less about being the most successful person in the room and more about being the most content. They reject the notion that success is based on how hard you work and measure their happiness instead by the amount of pleasure extracted. With our common sense, rationale, humor, and *joie de vivre* the French seem to convince the world of what they want to hear: to take it easy and simply.

--Mireille  
Guiliano

Perhaps the strongest evidence that women have as broad and deep a capacity for physical aggression as men is anecdotal. And as with men, this capacity has expressed itself in acts from the brave to the brutal, the selfless to the senseless.

--Katherine Dunn

Julie Landsman...was playing principal French horn for the Metropolitan Opera, in New York. When she'd finished her blind audition for that role, years earlier, she knew immediately that she'd won. Her last note was so true, and she held it so long, that she heard delighted peals of laughter break out among the evaluators on the other side of the screen. But when she came out to greet them, she heard a gasp. Landsman had played with the Met before, but only as a substitute. The evaluators knew her, yet only when they weren't aware of her gender—only, that is, when they were forced to make not a personal evaluation but an impersonal one—could they hear how brilliantly she played.

--Don Peck

Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, 'She doesn't have what it takes'; They will say, 'Women don't have what it takes'.

--Clare Boothe Luce

An ounce of mother is worth a pound of priests.

--Danish Proverb

Anyone who believes men and women are equal has never seen a man try to wrap a Christmas present.

--Unknown

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

No matter what else they're doing, women are also always nurturing.

--Cokie Roberts

I think that women just have a primeval instinct to make soup, which they will try to foist on anybody who looks like a likely candidate.

--Dylan Moran

Not only is women's work never done, the definition keeps changing.

--Bill Copeland

Does being a feminist mean that I believe that I'm as good as any man? Yes.

--Yasmine Bleeth

I've always believed that one woman's success can only help another woman's success.

--Gloria Vanderbilt

Female lust has been thoroughly documented (or at any rate, endlessly and theatrically depicted) by the adult film industry. How would porn get along without horny females? Science, too, has lately been busy substantiating the existence of girl lust. In his recent tour of burgeoning research into female desire, *What Do Women Want?*, Daniel Bergner reports a current verdict: women are at least as libidinous as men.

--Claire Dederer

I didn't want to let women down. One of the stereotypes I see breaking is the idea of aging and older women not being beautiful.

--Annie Leibovitz

The consensus that female lust is normal and real has been a long time coming—so long that any acknowledgment that our desire is adulterated by doubt can still seem anti-woman, or anti-sex, or anti-sexual-woman (or just a downer).

--Claire Dederer

The positive forces flow most frequently from the female fountain.

—Charles White

Women still remember the first kiss after men have forgotten the last.

--Remy de Gourmont

I don't believe man is a woman's natural enemy. Perhaps his lawyer is.

--Shana Alexander

When a woman's will is as strong as the man's who wants to govern her, half her strength must be concealment.

--George Eliot

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

--Mother Jones

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

--Georg C. Lichtenberg

Among men, sex sometimes results in intimacy; among women, intimacy sometimes results in sex.

--Barbara Cartland

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

--Henry A. Kissinger

Sometimes I only shave one leg so when I lie down it feels like I'm laying next to a man.

--Unknown

If you think women are the weaker sex, try pulling the blankets back to your side.

--Stuart Turner

The word, and the concept of feminism, was a gift because it gave me a sense of identity and a way of defining how I wished to live my life.

--Betty Buckley

If we help an educated man's daughter to go to Cambridge are we not forcing her to think not about education but about war? - not how she can learn, but how she can fight in order that she might win the same advantages as her brothers?

--Virginia Woolf

Everyone has stories about how their pre-feminist moms or grandmothers or aunts suddenly transformed during the change. (Said one still-changing grandma recently: 'If anyone tells you menopause is easy, just punch them in the mouth.') Everyone seems to remember the exact moment it happened, and everyone remembers what the ladies threw: Certain contemporaries of mine have separately reported witnessing their mothers throwing a telephone at the wall, volume M of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* at the cat, and beef Wellington through plate glass.

--Sandra Tsing Loh

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

—Unknown

Mothers are a biological necessity; fathers are a social invention.

--Margaret Mead

I have thought a sufficient measure of civilization is the influence of good women.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

A woman is always a mystery: one must not be fooled by her face and her heart's inspiration.

--Edmondo De Amicis

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

Curiosity is one of the forms of feminine bravery.

--Victor Hugo

The extension of women's rights is the basic principle of all social progress.

--Charles Fourier

We women must listen to our inner voice. It is easier for women to do this as they are not afraid to say what they feel.

--Indra Devi

He thinks he can. She thinks she can't. Compared with men, women don't consider themselves as ready for promotions, they predict they'll do worse on tests, and they generally underestimate their abilities. The consequences are profound: a growing body of evidence shows that, at work and in life, confidence matters just as much as competence.

--Katty Kay and Claire  
Shipman

We've made undeniable progress. In the United States, women now earn more college and graduate degrees than men do. We make up half the workforce, and we are closing the gap in middle management. Half a dozen global studies, conducted by the likes of Goldman Sachs and Columbia University, have found that companies employing women in large numbers outperform their competitors on every measure of profitability. Our competence has never been more obvious. Those who closely follow society's shifting values see the world moving in a female direction.

--Katty Kay and Claire  
Shipman

There is a particular crisis for women—a vast confidence gap that separates the sexes. Compared with men, women don't consider themselves as ready for promotions, they predict they'll do worse on tests, and they generally underestimate their abilities. This disparity stems from factors ranging from upbringing to biology. A growing body of evidence shows just how devastating this lack of confidence can be. Success, it turns out, correlates just as closely with confidence as it does with competence. No wonder that women, despite all our progress, are still woefully underrepresented at the highest levels.

--Katty Kay and Claire  
Shipman

Men initiate salary negotiations four times as often as women do, and that when women do negotiate, they ask for 30 percent less money than men do

--Katty Kay and Claire  
Shipman

Women and cats do as they damned well please, and men and dogs had best learn to live with it.

--Alan Holbrook

A review of personnel records found that women working at HP applied for a promotion only when they believed they met 100 percent of the qualifications listed for the job. Men were happy to apply when they thought they could meet 60 percent of the job requirements. At HP, and in study after study, the data confirm what we instinctively know. Under-qualified and underprepared men don't think twice about leaning in. Overqualified and over-prepared, too many women still hold back.

Women feel confident only when they are perfect. Or practically perfect.

--Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

There's just a natural sort of feeling among the women that they will not get a prestigious job, so why bother trying. Or they think that they are not totally competent in the area, so they're not going to go for it. They end up going into less competitive fields, like human resources or marketing. They don't go for finance, investment banks, or senior-track faculty positions.

--Victoria Brescoll

For decades, women have misunderstood an important law of the professional jungle. It's not enough to keep one's head down and plug away, checking items off a list. Having talent isn't merely about being competent; confidence is a part of that talent. You have to have it to excel.

--Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

The natural result of low confidence is inaction. When women don't act, when we hesitate because we aren't sure, we hold ourselves back. But when we do act, even if it's because we're forced to, we perform just as well as men do.

--Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

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

Women have a predestination to suffering.

--Bela Lugosi

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

I pray to God I get inside a girl's head one day and see what in the WORLD they are thinking.

--A. J. McLean

It has ever been since time began, and ever will be, till time lose breath, that love is a mood - no more - to man, and love to a woman is life or death.

--Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Emancipation of women has made them lose their mystery.

--Grace Kelly

There are whole precincts of voters in this country whose united intelligence does not equal that of one representative American woman.

--Carrie Chapman Catt

The natural superiority of women is a biological fact, and a socially acknowledged reality.

--Ashley Montagu

God could not be everywhere, and therefore he created mothers.

--Jewish Proverb

A girl who is interested in becoming a model must first accept the fact that she is the product. She must be ready to deal with a lot of rejection.

--Karolina Kurkova

What a mother sings to the cradle goes all the way to the coffin.

--Henry Ward Beecher

I may sometimes be willing to teach for nothing, but if paid at all, I shall never do a man's work for less than a man's pay.

--Clara Barton

When a man has a birthday, he takes a day off. When a woman has a birthday, she takes at least three years off.

--Joan Rivers

If Congress refuses to listen to and grant what women ask, there is but one course left then to pursue. What is there left for women to do but to become the mothers of the future government?

--Victoria Woodhull

There is a growing strength in women but it's in the forehead, not the forearm.

--Beverly Sills

Guys are simple... women are not simple and they always assume that men must be just as complicated as they are, only way more mysterious. The whole point is guys are not thinking much. They are just what they appear to be. Tragically.

—Dave Barry

It's a man's world, and you men can have it.

—Katherine Anne Porter

The proper study of mankind is woman.

—Henry Adams

The woman who is known only through a man is known wrong.

—Henry Adams

Some people think that most of what women learn about love, connection and friendship is learned between a mother and daughter, and that's the single most important relationship a woman ever has.

--Lauren Kessler

You know, men and women are a lot alike in certain situations. Like when they're both on fire - they're exactly alike.

—Dave Attell

Women's identity must be premised upon our 'beauty' so that we will remain vulnerable to outside approval, carrying the vital sensitive organ of self-esteem exposed to the air.

—Naomi Wolf

When a woman has lost her chastity she will shrink from nothing.

—Tacitus

The way to a woman's heart is through your wallet.

—Frank Dane

Why do people say, 'Grow some balls'? Balls are weak and sensitive! If you really wanna get tough, grow a vagina! Those things take a pounding.

—Betty White

A woman's guess is much more accurate than a man's certainty.

—Rudyard Kipling

In life, as in art, the beautiful moves in curves.

—Edward Bulwer-Lytton

Don't try to understand women. Women understand women, and they hate each other.

—Al Bundy from *Married with Children*

For every male action there is a female overreaction.

—*theChive*

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*

I've never understood why women love cats. Cats are independent, they don't listen, they don't come in when you call, they like to stay out all night, and when they're home they like to be left alone and sleep. In other words, every quality that women hate in a man, they love in a cat.

—Jay Leno

Why were males created before females?

Because you always need a rough draft before the final copy.

—T-Shirt Slogan

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

The labor of women in the house, certainly, enables men to produce more wealth than they otherwise could; and in this way women are economic factors in society. But so are horses.

—Charlotte Perkins  
Gilman

I think at this stage in my life I have learned that there are any number of things that men will never know, and can never hope to know, about women.

—Robert Parker

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

Deceit is the game of petty spirits, and that is by nature a woman's quality.

—Pierre Corneille

Basically, women have to prove they are strong at all times. And then when they go on the attack, they have to not appear mean because those women often get the label of being catty.

—Julie Nixon  
Eisenhower

A mammogram is the only picture of your breasts you should take past the age of 45.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

The birth-control pill (or colloquially, the pill) is an oral contraceptive that allows women to worry solely about getting STDs.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

Nature has given women so much power that the law has very wisely given them little.

—Samuel Johnson

The more I see of men, the better I like dogs.

—Madame de Stael

What I am defending is the real rights of women. A woman should have the right to be in the home as a wife and mother.

—Phyllis Schlafly

At the age of eleven or thereabouts women acquire a poise and an ability to handle difficult situations which a man, if he is lucky, manages to achieve somewhere in the later seventies.

—P. G. Wodehouse

A woman's life can really be a succession of lives, each revolving around some emotionally compelling situation or challenge, and each marked off by some intense experience.

—Wallis Simpson

It is only rarely that one can see in a little boy the promise of a man, but one can almost always see in a little girl the threat of a woman.

—Alexandre Dumas

There is a good principle which created order, light, and man, and an evil principle which created chaos, darkness, and woman.

—Pythagoras

The dearth of females in the upper echelons of virtually every field is notorious, and tends to get worse, not better, the higher you look. While women make up about half of the U.S. workforce and more than half of entry-level hires at the largest corporations, their ranks thin so starkly that just 4.8 percent of Fortune CEOs are female. Elsewhere on Wall Street, in Big Law, and in Silicon Valley, the numbers are no more equitable. Culprits range from child-rearing demands to gender bias.

—Liza Mundy

Women, often held back in midlife by domestic responsibilities, are in many ways suited to shift into high gear at a later age than men—to have it all, as the saying goes, by having it at different times. One high-level female executive told me recently that she is waiting until her kids start college to truly move into overdrive. 'I've got a good 15 years after that,' she figures, to make her full impact.

—Liza Mundy

Psychological research hints that people of both sexes may feel more comfortable with ambitious older women than with ambitious younger ones.

—Liza Mundy

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

There is no force equal to a woman determined to rise.

—W. E. B. Dubois

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

—Cynthia Nelms

Even for talented young women, a swift professional rise is far from preordained. Today, women begin their careers close to wage parity: according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, women between the ages of 25 and 34 earn almost 90 percent of what men do. The wage gap soon widens, however. Women between the ages of 45 and 54 make 76.6 percent of what men do. This is partly due to child-rearing logistics: a Pew Research Center report found that 42 percent of mothers had cut back on their work hours to care for a family member, and 51 percent of mothers with children under 18 said being a parent made it harder for them to advance professionally, compared with just 16 percent of fathers.

—Liza Mundy

The wage gap also seems to reflect a bias against mothers with children at home—a set of belittling stereotypes sometimes referred to as the 'maternal wall.' Research shows that when a working woman becomes a mother, she is typically seen as warmer and nicer, and that these traits may actually conspire against her, making her seem less good at her job.

—Liza Mundy

Men are more likely than women to be promoted based on their perceived potential, while women are more likely to be promoted based on their performance, a phenomenon that results in women getting to the top later, if they get there at all....Perhaps the real tragedy is not that women aren't promoted on potential; it's that men aren't forced to wait until they have performed.

—Liza Mundy

When feminist scholars began to look at gender..., they found that women seen as displaying traditionally feminine traits—housewives, say, or supportive girlfriends—were viewed as warm but not competent, and treated with a soft, dismissive sexism. Those who deviated from traditional felinity—lesbians, athletes, feminists, working women—were seen as competent but not warm, and treated with a more overtly hostile sexism. People seemed ready to perceive women as either warm or competent, but never both. Susan Fiske, the Princeton University psychology professor who pioneered this research, notes that for men, the two categories don't seem to be mutually exclusive. 'Women are in more of catch-22 situation,' she says.

—Liza Mundy

Even more than the Pill, what has liberated women is that they no longer need to depend on men economically.

—Jane Bryant Quinn

And verily, a woman need know but one man well, in order to understand all men; whereas a man may know all women and understand not one of them.

—Helen Rowland

What is it that love does to a woman? Without she only sleeps; with it alone, she lives.

—Ovid

A woman who gives any advantage to a man may expect a lover but will sooner or later find a tyrant.

—Lord Byron

Woman must not accept; she must challenge. She must not be awed by that which has been built up around her; she must reverence that woman in her which struggles for expression.

—Margaret Sanger

Women thrive on novelty and are easy meat for the commerce of fashion. Men prefer old pipes and torn jackets.

—Anthony Burgess

I'm not the woman president of Harvard; I'm the president of Harvard.

—Drew Gilpin Faust

The emotional, sexual, and psychological stereotyping of females begins when the doctor says: It's a girl.

—Shirley Chisholm

Well-behaved women seldom make history.

—Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

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

—Germaine Greer

Old maids, having never bent their temper or their lives to other lives and other tempers, as woman's destiny requires, have for the most part a mania for making everything about them bend to them.

—Honoré de Balzac

Women have simple tastes. They get pleasure out of the conversation of children in arms and men in love.

—H. L. Mencken

There are so few women in general who aren't completely threatened and confused by other women's success. It's very disappointing.

—Sandra Bernhard

My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent.

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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

A recent study of Harvard Business School graduates reveals that the vast majority of alumnae initially expect their career and their spouse's career to rank equally. However, among those who have kids, more than two-thirds end up doing most of the child care.

—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

Lead parenting is not merely its own reward; it also unlocks a capacity for caring and closeness that can last a lifetime. We know that support networks of friends and family help people tolerate adversity and live longer. Perhaps female advantages in these areas could help explain why women typically outlive men. A recent *National Bureau of Economic Research* paper speculates that women's 'nesting and family-protecting roles' and 'social planning and networking behaviors' could contribute to their sex's resilience and relative longevity.

—Andrew Moravcsik

Some women feel the need to act like they're never scared, needy or hurt; like they're as hardened as a man. I think that's dishonest. It's OK to feel delicate sometimes. Real beauty is in the fragility of your petals. A rose that never wilts isn't a rose at all.

—Crystal Woods

Women are simply not like men....Women experience more psychic entanglement with others, particularly their mothers, than men do.

—Judith Shulevitz

Public and employer opinion often defeat society's best interests with a prejudice against middle-aged women.

—Kate Smith

Men say that women should come with instructions...What's the point of that? Have you ever seen a man really read the instructions?

—*someecards.com*

They're called 'man hours' because women would have that stuff finished in 20 minutes.

—Ged Backland

Insanity is doing the same thing over & over again expecting different results. So...I guess I can stop cleaning the house.

—*TheShabbyCreekcottage.com*

I think feminists are unaware of the tremendous extent of the role of women in history.

—Vivienne Westwood

Everyone has three sides:  
The quiet, sweet side.  
The fun and crazy side.  
The side you never want to see.

—*WomenWorking.com*

In the duel of sex, woman fights from a dreadnought and man from an open raft.

—H. L. Mencken

Women always feel like they're being stared at and judged, and rightfully so.

—Rob Schneider

Any time that a woman acts in her own interest or in the interest of her gender, she is accused of selfishness. Look, even, at the language of ‘having it all,’ which is my most loathed phrase for a million reasons, namely that it’s a cliché. But it’s a perfect example of what we’re talking about here. ‘Having it all’ has been the default state of male life.

But when women make any kind of move towards having a full life that has many dimensions in many different directions, it gets framed as an issue of greedy acquisition. Every move toward equality for women has always been framed as narcissism, self-interest, vanity, self-regard, piggishness.

—Rebecca Traister

Not all girls are made of sugar, spice and everything nice. I’m made of sarcasm, wine, and everything fine.

—[facebook.com/queensofsass](https://www.facebook.com/queensofsass)

We are victims of evil customs. It is a crime against humanity that our women are shut up within the four walls of the houses as prisoners. There is no sanction anywhere for the deplorable condition in which our women have to live.

—Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Why can’t a woman be more like a dog, huh? So sweet, loving, attentive.

—Kirk Douglas

The ‘muckrakers’ were the crusading journalists who fought to correct long-standing injustices and change society. Many of them were women: Nellie Bly, who exposed the horrors of mental institutions; Ida Tarbell, who took on the monopoly power of Standard Oil; and Jane Addams, who shone a light on the misery of impoverished immigrants. Intrepid reporters who revealed realities that were so powerful that the facts alone were a form of activism.

—Ron Rosenbaum

There’s a legacy of women doing conflict reporting. Women like Nellie Bly and Djuna Barnes. They’ve been underestimated and written out of history by the men that control official narratives. When Djuna Barnes was a young woman, she endured force-feeding so she could write articles about what it was like for a suffragette hunger striker to be force-fed. Her first job was a journalist—and she was an illustrator as well. Then, of course, there’s Martha Gellhorn, Hemingway’s third wife, who went onshore on D-Day when women were banned from going to the front by sneaking onto a ship as a stretcher-bearer.

—Molly Crabapple

My own sex, I hope, will excuse me, if I treat them like rational creatures, instead of flattering their fascinating graces, and viewing them as if they were in a state of perpetual childhood, unable to stand alone.

—Mary Wollstonecraft

I will far rather see the race of man extinct than that we should become less than beasts by making the noblest of God's creation, woman, the object of our lust.

—Mohandas Gandhi

Half a million women die each year around the world in pregnancy. It's not biology that kills them so much as neglect.

—Nicholas D. Kristof

Of course women don't work as hard as men. They get it right the first time.

—Ged Backland

This may shock some of you but there are women who are kick ass drivers, love sex, hate talking during movies, don't want your money, and always say exactly what they mean.

—Unknown

### **5 DEADLY TERMS USED BY A WOMAN:**

- 1) 'Fine' – This is the word women use to end an argument when she knows she is right and you need to shut up.
- 2) 'Nothing' – means 'Something' and you need to be worried.
- 3) 'Go Ahead' – this is a dare, not permission, don't do it.
- 4) 'Whatever' – A women's way of saying screw you.
- 5) 'That's Ok' – She is thinking long and hard on how and when you will pay for your mistake.

Bonus Word: 'Wow!'—This is not a compliment; she's amazed that one person could be so stupid.

—Unknown

You don't truly know a woman until you understand every word she isn't saying to you.

—Ged Backland

I've got PMS, OCD, and ADD. I want to cry and look pretty while I kill everyone, but I can't focus on that right now, I'm cleaning.

—*someecards.com*

I want everything of life, I do; and I want it now! I want it total, complete: otherwise I reject it! I will not be moderate. I will not be satisfied with the bite of cake you offer me if I promise to be a good little girl. I want to be sure of everything this very day; sure that everything will be as beautiful as when I was a little girl. If not, I want to die!

—Antigone in Sophocles  
*Antigone*

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

—*theChive*

Women are 80% more likely than men to be impoverished at age 65 and up, while women 75 to 79 are three times more likely.

—Robert Powell

The narrator of Mary McCarthy’s *The Company She Keeps* could be seen as ‘enslaved because she persists in looking for her identity in a man.’ Similarly, 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 see now more clearly than I have ever done before that a private governess has no existence, is not considered as a living and rational being except as connected with the wearisome duties she has to fulfill.

—Charlotte Brontë

There is nothing more rare, nor more beautiful, than a woman being unapologetically herself; comfortable in her perfect imperfection. To me, that is the true essence of beauty.

—Steve Maraboli

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

I think women are foolish to pretend they are equal to men, they are far superior and always have been.

—William Golding

Whatever you give a woman, she will make greater. If you give her sperm, she'll give you a baby.. If you give her a house, she'll give you a home. If you give her groceries, she'll give you a meal. If you give her a smile, she'll give you her heart. She multiplies and enlarges what is given to her. So, if you give her any crap, be ready to receive a ton of shit!

—Erick S.Gray

The problem is with men. I know I shouldn't say this, but they've shrouded and hidden women to hide their incompetence.

—John Galliano

The literature of women's lives is a tradition of escapees, women who have lived to tell the tale.

—Phyllis Rose

A woman is like a tea bag: You never know her strength until you drop her in hot water.

—Nancy Reagan

I don't think there's any man who knows what I'm about, and I don't know what any man is about.

—Edna O'Brien

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

—Lawrence Ganong

The Rubicons which women must cross, the sex barriers which they must breach, are ultimately those that exist in their own minds.

—Freda Adler

The only trouble here is they won't let us study enough. They are so afraid we shall break down and you know the reputation of the College is at stake, for the question is, can girls get a college degree without ruining their health?

—Ellen Henrietta  
Swallow Richards  
(1862)

A beautiful young lady is an act of nature. A beautiful old lady is a work of art.

—Louis Nizer

I don't know a single smart, opinionated woman in the United States who hasn't been called a bitch.

—Anna Quindlen

Male menopause is a lot more fun than female menopause. With female menopause, you gain weight and get hot flashes. With male menopause, you get to date young girls and drive motorcycles.

—Rita Rudner

The mechanism she employs is much more powerful than ours, for all her levers move the human heart.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I know of no industrial society where women are the economic equals of men. Of everything that economics measures, women get less.

— Ivan Illich

One of the things about equality is not just that you be treated equally to man, but that you treat yourself equally the way you treat a man.

—Marlo Thomas

A man's women folk, whatever their outward show of respect for his merit and authority, always regard him secretly as an ass, and with something akin to pity. His most gaudy sayings and doings seldom deceive them. They see the actual man within, and know him for a shallow and pathetic fellow. In this fact, perhaps, lies one of the best proofs of feminine intelligence, or, as the common phrase makes it, feminine intuition.

—H. L. Mencken

It's easier for young girls than for young boys to behave: As is well established, they start elementary school with a developmental edge in some key areas. They have longer attention spans, more-advanced verbal and fine-motor skills, and greater social adeptness. They generally don't charge through the halls like wild animals, or get into fights during recess. Soon they learn that they are most valuable, and most in favor, when they do things the right way: neatly and quietly.

--Katty Kay and Claire  
Shipman

Over the next few years the boardrooms of America are going to light up with hot flashes.

—Gail Sheehy

Girls seem to be more easily socialized. They get a lot of praise for being perfect says Carol Dweck. In turn, they begin to crave the approval they get for being good. There's certainly no harm intended by overworked, overstressed teachers (or parents). Who doesn't want a kid who works hard and doesn't cause a lot of trouble?

--Katty Kay and Claire  
Shipman

I had no reason to doubt that brains were suitable for a woman. And as I had my father's kind of mind—which was also his mother's—I learned that the mind is not sex-typed.

—Margaret Mead

Whatever you choose, however many roads you travel, I hope that you choose not to be a lady. I hope you will find some way to break the rules and make a little trouble out there. And I also hope that you will choose to make some of that trouble on behalf of women.

—Nora Ephron

Women lie about weight, age and appearance, while men lie about achievements, connections and actions. Women think lies should end where love begins, and men see no particular connection between lying and loving. Women lie to ingratiate themselves—'It's Okay, leave ESPN on' or 'Of course I want you to spend time with your friends'—while men lie to avoid confrontations or make power plays.

Men are superior at boasting (known in literary circles as narrative storytelling). And women are superior at the constant stream of half-lies that soothe social interplay. While usually altruistic, these feminine lies can also reflect malicious glee. ('Wow, I didn't know culottes were back. And you found some in seersucker!')

Women speak more honestly about people behind their backs, while men consider such blunt assessments catty or disloyal. While they feel betrayed by men's black lies, women spend a lot of time coaching men to tell them white lies, such as: 'Yes, your boss is a jerk' and 'No, you are not too fat for those pants.'

—Maureen Dowd

Being powerful is a lot like being a woman: If you have to tell someone that you are, invariably, you are not.

—Margaret Thatcher

There is no female mind. The brain is not an organ of sex. Might as well speak of a female liver.

—Charlotte Perkins  
Gilman

A woman's mind and winter wind change oft.

—Proverb

Hey Men...If you want to know what a woman's mind feels like, imagine a browser with 2,500 tabs open all the freakin' time.

—Ged Backland

Girls blush, sometimes, because they are alive, half wishing they were dead to save the shame. The sudden blush devours them, neck and brow; They have drawn too near the fire of life, like gnats, and flare up bodily, wings and all. What then? Who's sorry for a gnat or girl?

—Elizabeth Barrett  
Browning

I'm gonna sound like a greedy, driven, possessed woman, but that's pretty much what you have to be to get ahead. It is still hard for a female to break into this business—we have to work five times harder. You have to think up better things, and you have to go put on a show that costs your butt for the first half of the year until you get paid for it. Women still face a lot of obstacles, and I have done everything in the world to break through.

—Country Singer Reba  
McEntire

A woman with a beautiful body is good for a night, but a woman with a beautiful mind is good for a lifetime.

—Unknown

Women know about life and about how to get along with others, and are sensitive to beauty, and can yell louder. They know all about guys, having been exposed to guy life since forever, and guys know nothing about girls except that they want one desperately. Which gender is better equipped to manipulate the other?

Men adore women. Women look at men and chuckle.

So we guys carry the seeds of adolescence in our bodies all our lives. We go along being cool, hearty, good-humored, wily, dashing, winsome, saying incredibly witty things, shooting baskets, the breeze, the moon, and then one day we wake up middle-aged and full of loneliness, our life seems like one wasted afternoon and we go do something spectacularly dumb, like run off with Amber the cocktail waitress, and suddenly all the women in our life look at us with disgust.

—Garrison Keillor

It doesn't bother me that Disney has given me unrealistic ideas about men. I'm more annoyed that no matter how much I sing, woodland animals have not once helped with the housework.

—Unknown

You are only helpless while your nail polish is wet. Even then, you could pull a trigger if you had to.

—Unknown

The cruel irony of housework...People only notice when you don't do it.

—Danielle Raine

What had really caused the women's movement was the additional years of human life. At the turn of the century women's life expectancy was forty-six; now it was nearly eighty. Our groping sense that we couldn't live all those years in terms of motherhood alone was 'the problem that had no name.' Realizing that it was not some freakish personal fault but our common problem as women had enabled us to take the first steps to change our lives.

—Betty Friedan

All of women's aspirations—whether for education, work, or any form of self-determination—ultimately rest on their ability to decide whether and when to bear children. For this reason, reproductive freedom has always been the most popular item in each of the successive feminist agendas—and the most heavily assaulted target of each backlash.

—Susan Faludi

So long as the source of our identity is external—vested in how others judge our performance at work, or how others judge our children's performance, or how much money we make—we will find ourselves hopelessly flawed, forever short of the ideal.

—Melinda M. Marshall

We are seeing an increasing level of attacks on the 'selfishness' of women. There are allegations that all kinds of social ills, from runaway children to the neglected elderly, are due to the fact that women have left their 'rightful' place in the home. Such arguments are simplistic and wrongheaded but women are especially vulnerable to the accusation that if society has problems, it's because women aren't nurturing enough.

—Grace Baruch

If women's role in life is limited solely to housewife/mother, it clearly ends when she can no longer bear more children and the children she has borne leave home.

—Betty Friedan

Ideas about mothers have swung historically with the roles of women. When women were needed to work the fields or shops, experts claimed that children didn't need them much. Mothers, who might be too soft and sentimental, could even be bad for children's character development. But when men left home during the Industrial Revolution to work elsewhere, women were 'needed' at home. The cult of domesticity and motherhood became a virtue that kept women in their place.

—Sandra Scarr

No woman can call herself free who does not own and control her body. No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother.

--Margaret Sanger

Woman is born that she may have children and perpetuate the human race.

--Claudian

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

I thought about all of us women and how we spend half our lives rebelling against our mothers and the next half rebelling against our daughters.

—Lois Wyse

Once when my boys were little, I bemoaned to a friend about Mother X who sewed all her kids' Halloween costumes (mine wore store-bought) and Mother Y who made every birthday cake from scratch (I ordered from the bakery). Don't compare yourself to those gals. Think about the moms who aren't making much of an effort at all and congratulate yourself that you're doing more for your little darlings than they are.

--Elizabeth Fishel

Some people think that most of what women learn about love, connection and friendship is learned between a mother and daughter, and that's the single most important relationship a woman ever has.

--Lauren Kessler

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 refers 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

Idealizing Daddy is grand when you're five; it's crippling when you're twenty-five or thirty-five. For if you still believe in Daddy's miracles, you may not believe that you can make your own dreams come true. Worse, you may not even be able to formulate them without his guidance.

—Victoria Secunda

Learning is nothing without cultivated manners, but when the two are combined in a woman, you have one of the most exquisite products of civilization.

--André Maurois

Abuse in any form by either party is wrong, duh, but whine to me when violence against men is the same as violence against women, because newsflash, it's not. The risk that men pose to women is not the same as the one we pose to men, statistics prove that. Y'all have to worry about a crazy girlfriend keying your car, we have to worry about a crazy guy KILLING us.

—Katie Miller

Women are wiser than men because they know less and understand more.

—James Stephens

Inside every woman, is a crazy girl. And we all know what I'm talking about. That part of you that is entangled with insecurities, fears, and absolute insanity! The art of femininity lies in the molding, pounding, and defeating of that crazy girl on a daily basis! Look at any woman, and you're looking at a woman fighting a daily battle, wielding her weapons in war, every day! I have said it before and I'll say it again: it is never easy being a woman! And if we could only pound that crazy, insecure girl out of ourselves, it would make such the difference!

—C. JoyBell C.

I've done a lot of surveys and interacted with a lot of students, and I was shocked to see that at 12 years old, girls are already talking about dumbing themselves down.

—Danica McKellar

Most women go through life looking for love, and looking for someone to treat them like a queen. For some women finding real love seems to be something that will never happen. I believe that finding love is not as hard as people make it seem. The reason that some women can't find real love is because they look for more than just real love. A lot of women know what they need in a relationship, and that's for a man to love that woman with all of his heart, and to treat her real good. Most women have guys in their life or guys that try to get with them that could really love them and treat them real good. Those are usually the guys that get forced into that friend zone or rejected upfront. See, those guys could give them what they need, but not what they want. 'Wants' can be anything from a woman wanting a man to have certain materialistic things, or she could want him to look a certain way, those are a few examples of the things that some of them want, but they vary depending on the female. What some females don't understand is that none of the things that they want has anything to do with love or how that person will treat you. You could find a man that looks perfect, has a house and car, he can be a college graduate with a good job, and you could still end up being with a person that doesn't truly love you, and will treat you like shit. What I am trying to say is that the person who could treat you good and really love you could already be in your life, but you could have been blinded by the things you want in a man, so you overlooked the person that you were really looking for. And by the way, there are men that do the same thing; I just wanted to be clear on that.

—Taisen Deshimaru

It's not very easy to grow up into a woman. We are always taught, almost bombarded, with ideals of what we should be at every age in our lives: 'This is what you should wear at age twenty,' 'That is what you must act like at age twenty-five,' 'This is what you should be doing when you are seventeen.' But amidst all the many voices that bark all these orders and set all of these ideals for girls today, there lacks the voice of assurance. There is no comfort and assurance. I want to be able to say that there are four things admirable for a woman to be, at any age! Whether you are four or forty-four or nineteen! It's always wonderful to be elegant, it's always fashionable to have grace, it's always glamorous to be brave, and it's always important to own a delectable perfume! Yes, wearing a beautiful fragrance is in style at any age!

—C. JoyBell C.

The six people who had the biggest impact on my life were all women. Had I been sexist, my life would have been far less fulfilling.

—Zig Ziglar

It was 1976.

It was one of the darkest days of my life when that nurse, Mrs. Shimmer, pulled out a maxi pad that measured the width and depth of a mattress and showed us how to use it. It had a belt with it that looked like a slingshot that possessed the jaw-dropping potential to pop a man's head like a gourd. As she stretched the belt between the fingers of her two hands, Mrs. Shimmer told us becoming a woman was a magical and beautiful experience.

I remember thinking to myself, You're damn right it had better be magic, because that's what it's going to take to get me to wear something like that, Tinkerbell! It looked like a saddle. Weighed as much as one, too. Some girls even cried.

I didn't.

I raised my hand.

'Mrs. Shimmer,' I asked cautiously, 'so what kind of security napkins do boys wear when their flower pollinates? Does it have a belt, too?'

The room got quiet except for a bubbling round of giggles.

'You haven't been paying attention, have you?' Mrs. Shimmer accused sharply.

'Boys have stamens, and stamens do not require sanitary napkins. They require self control, but you'll learn that soon enough.'

I was certainly hoping my naughty bits (what Mrs. Shimmer explained to us was like the pistil of a flower) didn't get out of control, because I had no idea what to do if they did.

—Laurie Notaro

Why is it that women of the stage are generally more alluring than women in private life? Because they have about them the plaything air.

--George Jean Nathan

During the Progressive era, with women beginning to vote and race riots breaking out across growing urban centers, lawmakers seized on flirting as a menace to social order. New York City police set up flirting dragnets, using 'pretty blonde girls as bait,' according to a syndicated newspaper column from June, 1920. 'The enormous recent growth of the crime of flirting...must be ascribed to a growing laxity of conduct in general, and also to the rise of the short skirt,' the article continued. 'It should be promptly and drastically suppressed.'

—Amanda Ripley

I do not think I ever opened a book in my life which had not something to say upon woman's inconstancy. Songs and proverbs, all talk of woman's fickleness. But perhaps you will say, these were all written by men.

Perhaps I shall. Yes, yes, if you please, no reference to examples in books. Men have had every advantage of us in telling their own story. Education has been theirs in so much higher a degree; the pen has been in their hands. I will not allow books to prove anything.

—Jane Austen

Life was not easy, nor was it happy, but she did not expect life to be easy, and, if it was not happy, that was woman's lot. It was a man's world, and she accepted it as such. The man owned the property, and the woman managed it. The man took credit for the management, and the woman praised his cleverness. The man roared like a bull when a splinter was in his finger, and the woman muffled the moans of childbirth, lest she disturb him. Men were rough of speech and often drunk. Women ignored the lapses of speech and put the drunkards to bed without bitter words. Men were rude and outspoken, women were always kind, gracious and forgiving.

—Margaret Mitchell

According to a *Pew Research* survey released in August [2016], most American men—56%—think sexism is over and done with. More than half believe that ‘the obstacles that once made it harder for women than men to get ahead are now largely gone.’ As in disappeared. Past tense. Ancient history.

—Susanna Schrobsdorff

The way men talk among themselves about women has a tangible effect on how women are treated at work. Men bond by objectifying women, often referring to them as objects. As in: ‘I’d like to get behind that.’ It’s hard to imagine calling someone that in any other context.: ‘That is going to the store.’

—Sam Polk

...the horror of transitioning from ‘Miss’ to ‘Ma’am’—when guys get to be ‘Sir’ for life. Sir means you are respected and maybe a little feared. No one fears ma’am, except in the sense that they may be worried: oh no, what if this ma’am starts hitting on me, then what will I do?

—Jessi Klein

There’s a terrible truth for many women in the picture business: Aging typically takes its toll and means fewer and less desirable roles.

—Maureen O’Hara

There's nothing inherently wrong with a princess. Historically, princesses are fascinating people with a great deal of consequence. There is a subset of stories about princesses which has them as helpless people waiting a lot and sleeping a lot and powerless to do anything without a man to help. That's the kind of story we wanted to subvert.

—Shannon Hale

From 1975 to 2006, the proportion of women with at least a college degree increased from 19 to 34 percent. During the same period the corresponding percentage for men increased from 27 to 29 percent. Many experts are predicting that women will account for 60 percent of college graduates in the coming years.

—Kay S. Hymowitz

Male students tend to be less engaged on campus and less likely to join a campus organization. According to studies...women are more likely to participate in class discussion and tend to communicate more regularly with faculty, often resulting in a more promising employment outlook after school. It has been well documented in recent years that women tend to graduate with higher GPAs than their male counterparts. As management philosophy shifts, women are also poised to take on more leadership roles in corporate governance.

—Nathaniel Clarkson

Actresses talking about characters they've played often use the phrase 'strong woman,' which kind of irks me. Firstly, the description appears to be reserved for two kinds of female: the gun-toting chick in tiny-vest-and-shorts combo, or the tough-talking businesswoman who secretly longs for a man to bring out her softer side. So obviously, our idea of strength is pretty narrow and one-dimensional. Secondly, why isn't Brad Pitt ever asked about how much he enjoys playing a 'strong man?' Is it automatically assumed that men's roles will be complex and interesting?

—Rosie Blythe

You know, this is a business [show business] where only 15% make a living wage and only 9% of those are women. But I figured somebody has to be that 15%, somebody's got to be one of those women.

—Marcia Wallace

I'm very worried about the depiction of women on the screen. It's gotten worse than ever and it's related to their being either high- or low-class concubines, and the only question is when or where they will go to bed, with whom, and how many. There's nothing to do with the dreams of women, or of woman as the dream, nothing to do with the quirky part of her, the wonder of her.

—John Cassavetes

The history of the cinema is the history of boys photographing girls.

--Jean-Luc Godard

No woman has ever told the whole truth of her life. The autobiographies of most famous women are a series of accounts of the outward existence, of petty details and anecdotes which give no realisation of their real life. For the great moments of joy or agony they remain strangely silent.

--Isadora Duncan

Shakespeare has done more for woman than all the other dramatists of the world.

--Robert G. Ingersoll

My dis-interest in what people speak of as 'women's problems,' 'women's literature.' Have women a special sensibility? No. There are individuals uniquely talented & uniquely equipped to interpret the complex symbolism of the world but they are certainly not determined by gender. The very idea is astonishing. [...] Energy, talent, vision, insight, compassion, the ability to stay with a single work for long periods of time, the ability to be faithful (to both one's writing and one's beloved)--these have nothing to do with gender. [...] The sensibility of a Virginia Woolf, for instance. It's her own, it's uniquely hers. Not because she is a 'female' but because she is, or was, Virginia Woolf. Not more sensitive than Henry James or Proust or James Joyce, consequently not more 'feminine' in the narrow & misleading sense people use that term today....But then I suppose critics must have something to write about. [...]

—Joyce Carol Oates

Women artists have been put down in many ways over the years, but the basic technique boils down to this? A critic, a curator, a dealer, or an art historian describes how women paint differently from men, then declares this quality inferior. Women are pegged as controlled, tentative, personal. (For instance, Hartigan [Grace] recalled in her diary that Clement Greenberg told her women painters were 'too easily satisfied' and would make pictures that had a certain 'polish.') Men, meanwhile, are seen as wild and sure, channeling outside forces. (Pollock famously declared, 'I am nature.') In these match-ups between alleged feminine and masculine essences, the man typically wins. Finished is not free. Personal is not universal. Nature does not doubt itself.

Greatness is a moving target designed to make women miss. It is no accident that 'painting like a man' used to be dished out as a supremely delicious compliment. Irving Sandler once asked Hartigan 'if a male artist ever told her she painted as well as a man.' She replied tartly, 'Not twice.'

—Sarah Boxer

I'm always going to be Mrs. Jackson Pollock—that's a matter of fact—[but] I painted before Pollock, during Pollock, after Pollock.

—Lee Krasner

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

The worker is the slave of capitalist society, the female worker is the slave of that slave.

—James Connolly

At eleven-thirty on a rainy Thursday morning we counted the persons in the north hall of the reading-room in the Library. There were one hundred and seven men and fourteen women. Our conclusions, interesting, and well thought out, were: men are more scholarly, curious, persistent, indifferent to weather, romantic, earnest, intellectual, early-rising, conscientious, creative, sober, and unoccupied, than women. But we may be wrong.

--E. B. White

Women talk when they have nothing to say. They chatter about a lot of nonsense that interests no one but themselves. They should keep quiet and not open their mouths just because they like the sound of their voices.

--Marlene Dietrich

Architecture is particularly difficult for women; there's no reason for it to be. I don't want to blame men or society, but I think it was for a long time, the clients were men, the building industry is all male.

—Zaha Hadid

The enduring differences in how men and women communicate still have ramifications that range from hurt feelings to missed promotions and fewer pay raises. No news here: Men are supposedly blunter and more aggressive and appear self-confident even when they don't know what they're talking about. Women are more tentative in voicing their opinions and appear unsure of themselves even when they know very well what they're talking about. As bosses, men tend to be more authoritarian and women more collaborative. Men don't give much feedback; women want too much feedback. Men are thought not to ask enough questions; women are thought to ask too many questions. And so forth.

--Alina Tugend

For a juicy conversation, three women are needed: two to do the talking, and one to be the subject.

—Unknown

Women tend to be more expressive than men. This tendency plays out in a number of contexts. Studies have found that women do more diary-style blogging, while men's blogs tend to feature more informational content; and that women are inclined to write with more personal pronouns, more emotive words, more abbreviations like lol, more emoticons, and more expressions such as ahhh, ugh, and grrr.

—Jessica Bennett

Women are less compelled to be traditional and conservative in their modes of expression. They can often be at the forefront of linguistic shifts.

—Alexandra King

Women cannot complain about men anymore until they start getting better taste in them.

—Bill Maher

Women appear to pay the greatest price for bragging. When job candidates in one study self-confidently high-lighted their accomplishments, they were seen as more competent than when they spoke modestly. Yet the women who self-promoted were seen as less likable than the self-effacing women.

—Matthew Hutson

As for humble bragging (disguising a boast as a complaint, like 'People keep telling me how cute I am—awkward!'), be careful. The strategy can backfire: Across several studies, humble braggers were seen as less sincere and likable than plain braggarts.

—Matthew Hutson

I talk to women's groups all over the country and see women struggling with this. The fear of not being accepted, of being different, of not having a man, all make it hard for a woman to do what she really believes is right for her.

—Olympia Dukakis

The capacity of the female mind for studies of the highest order cannot be doubted, having been sufficiently illustrated by its works of genius, of erudition, and of science.

—James Madison

Taking joy in living is a woman's best cosmetic.

—Rosalind Russell

There are no women composers, never have been and possibly never will be.

--Sir Thomas Beecham

Women ruin music. If the ladies are ill-favoured the men do not want to play next to them, and if they are well-favoured they can't.

--Sir Thomas Beecham

Girls are brought up to believe that they aren't supposed to be good in math, so they get it in their heads that they don't belong in math or sciences. As math gets more challenging in junior high, girls become more aware of those stereotypes and fear math.

--Danica McKellar

An amateur is an artist who supports himself with outside jobs which enable him to paint. A professional is someone whose wife works to enable him to paint.

--Ben Shahn

History, as taught in our schools, has been a celebration of the white, male, Protestant Founding Fathers rather than the great mix of people in the American drama....People who are in subordinated groups want history simply to do for them what history has already done for white males.

--Mary Frances Berry

I am not belittling the brave pioneer men, but the sunbonnet as well as the sombrero has helped to settle this glorious land of ours.

--Edna Ferber

When men bring forward as a second proof of their superiority the assertion that women have not achieved as much as men, they use poor arguments which leave history out of consideration. If they kept themselves more fully informed historically, they would know that great women have lived and achieved great things in the past, and that there are many living and achieving great things today.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

I think feminists are unaware of the tremendous extent of the role of women in history.

—Vivienne Westwood

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

From the cradle to the grave she is subject to the power and control of man. Father, guardian, or husband, one conveys her like some piece of merchandise over to the other.

—Ernestine Rose (1885)

A science career for women is now almost as acceptable as being cheerleader.  
--Myra Barker

Most women's magazines simply try to mold women into bigger and better consumers.

—Gloria Steinem

Only 7% of directors on the top 250 films of 2016 were women. That's slightly less than the percentage of female directors on top films in 1998.

—Ariane Lange

Most of the people at the top were always going to be the people at the top—they had uncomplicated access to opportunities that women and people of color and other minorities simply don't.

—Rob Markman

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

The reason there are so few female politicians is that it is too much trouble to put makeup on two faces.

--Maureen Murphy

A 2015 Ernst & Young survey of high-level female executives found that 90 percent of them played a sport; among women holding a C-suite position, the proportion rose to 94 percent.

—Sally Jenkins

Women's place is in the House—and in the Senate.

--Gloria Schaffer

I don't consider the Equal Rights Amendment a political issue. It is a moral issue as far as I am concerned. Where are women mentioned in the Constitution except in the Nineteenth Amendment, giving us the right to vote? When they said all men were created equal, they really meant it—otherwise, why did we have to fight for the Nineteenth Amendment?

--Carol Burnett

Women need to see ourselves as individuals capable of creating change. That is what political and economic power is all about: having a voice, being able to shape the future. Women's absence from decision-making positions has deprived the country of a necessary perspective.

--Madeleine Kunin

It is not lack of polling data or campaign contributions which keeps many women from ascending higher on the political ladder. It is fear and loathing for the political system itself.

--Madeleine Kunin

Women in politics, it has long been assumed, are trapped in a disabling web of double standards—presumed by voters to be weaker and less capable leaders, but punished for violating gender norms if they do act tough or get angry.

--Molly Ball

The rise of women is not the result of any ideology or political movement; it is a result of the widespread realization, sometime after the Second World War, that families in which women work are families that prosper. And countries in which women work are countries that prosper. In 2006, a database created by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development demonstrated what common sense tells us; with few exceptions, countries in which women have more economic and political power are richer than countries where women are relatively powerless. Patriarchy is damn expensive. That's why it's doomed.

--Stephen Marche

A woman's body is a sacred temple. A work of art, and a life-giving vessel. And once she becomes a mother, her body serves as a medicine cabinet for her infant. From her milk she can nourish and heal her own child from a variety of ailments. And though women come in a wide assortment as vast as the many different types of flowers and birds, she is to reflect divinity in her essence, care and wisdom. God created a woman's heart to be a river of love.

—Suzy Kassem

In politics women...type the letters, lick the stamps, distribute the pamphlets and get out the vote. Men get elected.

--Clare Boothe Luce

Women in politics or public roles should grow skin like a rhinoceros.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

If American politics are too dirty for women to take part in, there's something wrong with American politics.

--Edna Ferber

There are whole precincts of voters in this country whose united intelligence does not equal that of one representative American woman.

--Carrie Chapman Catt

If Congress refuse to listen to and grant what women ask, there is but one course left then to pursue. What is there left for women to do but to become the mothers of the future government?

--Victoria Woodhull

At the fourth grade level, girls at the same percentages of boys say they're interested in careers in engineering or math or astrophysics, but by eighth grade that has dropped precipitously.

—Chelsea Clinton

It is pure mythology that women cannot perform as well as men in science, engineering and mathematics. In my experience, the opposite is true: Women are often more adept and patient at untangling complex problems, multitasking, seeing the possibilities in new solutions and winning team support for collaborative action.

—Weili Dai

In 1980, when researchers conducted a major study to determine if taking low-dose aspirin could reduce heart attack risk, they enrolled 22,000 men—and not a single woman. That's despite the fact that heart disease kills as many women as men. Studies like that one led to an outcry against gender bias in medicine, and in subsequent years, the medical community has taken steps to ensure that scientific research is more inclusive.

In 1993, Congress ordered the *National Institutes of Health* (NIH) to include women in all clinical trials it funded, and today women make up about half of those participants.

—Candy Sagon

Whatever you give a woman, she will make greater. If you give her sperm, she'll give you a baby.. If you give her a house, she'll give you a home. If you give her groceries, she'll give you a meal. If you give her a smile, she'll give you her heart. She multiplies and enlarges what is given to her. So, if you give her any crap, be ready to receive a ton of shit!

—Erick S.Gray

But say some, would you expose woman to the contact of rough, rude, drinking, swearing, fighting men at the ballot box? What a humiliating confession lies in this plea for keeping woman in the background!

—Ernestine Rose (1851)

Many men are deeply moved by the mere semblance of suffering in a woman; they take the look of pain for a sign of constancy or of love.

—Honore de Balzac

I think while all mothers deal with feelings of guilt, working mothers are plagued by guilt on steroids!

—Arianna Huffington

Women are systematically degraded by receiving the trivial attentions which men think it manly to pay to the sex, when, in fact, men are insultingly supporting their own superiority.

—Mary Wollstonecraft

A society in which women are taught anything but the management of a family, the care of men, and the creation of the future generation is a society which is on the way out.

--L. Ron Hubbard

A woman cannot be herself in modern society, with laws made by men and with prosecutors and judges who assess female conduct from a male standpoint.

--Henrik Ibsen

If there hadn't been women we'd still be squatting in a cave eating raw meat, because we made civilization in order to impress our girlfriends.

--Orson Welles

A woman is her mother.

--Anne Sexton

Male and female are really two cultures and their life experiences are utterly different.

--Kate Millett

Most women would rather cuddle a baby than a typewriter or a machine.

--Phyllis Schlafly

Man is not the enemy here, but the fellow victim. The real enemy is women's denigration of themselves.

--Betty Friedan

The image of woman as we know it is an image created by men and fashioned to suit their needs.

--Kate Millett

Women have childbearing equipment. For them to choose not to use the equipment is no more blocking what is instinctive than it is for a man who, muscles or no, chooses not to be a weightlifter.

--Betty Rollin

Within the context of most human societies to date, women of strength and achievement are exceptions to the rule. This is reflected in novels about the past or present.

--Pamela Sargent

Women are the real architects of society.

--Harriet Beecher Stowe

Anthropologists have found that around the world whatever is considered 'men's work' is almost universally given higher status than 'women's work.' If in one culture it is men who build houses and women who make baskets, then that culture will see house-building as more important. In another culture, perhaps right next door, the reverse may be true, and basket-weaving will have higher social status than house-building.

--Mary Stewart

The economic dependence of women is perhaps the greatest injustice that has been done to us, and has worked the greatest injury to the race.

--Nellie McClung

A man is a person who will pay two dollars for a one-dollar item he wants. A woman will pay one dollar for a two-dollar item she doesn't want.

--William Binger  
Roosevelt

If establishing masculinity depends most of all on succeeding as the prime breadwinner, then it is hard to imagine a force more directly threatening to fragile American manhood than the feminist drive for economic equality.

--Susan Faludi

The husband has to make money first and his wife has to make it last.

—Unknown

To sell something, tell a woman it's a bargain; tell a man it's deductible.

--Earl Wilson

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

Girls in the first few years of elementary school are less likely than boys to say that their own gender is 'really, really smart,' and less likely to opt into a game described as being for supersmart kids.

—Katherine Hobson

What fabrications they are, mothers. Scarecrows, wax dolls for us to stick pins into, crude diagrams. We deny them an existence of their own, we make them up to suit ourselves—our own hungers, our own wishes, our own deficiencies.

—Margaret Atwood

Women never bought Freud's idea of penis envy: who would want a shotgun when you can have an automatic?

—Natalie Angier

Who knows the difference between education and training? For those of you with daughters, would you rather have them take sex education or sex training? Need I say more?

—Dennis Rubin

I claim that rape exists any time sexual intercourse occurs when it has not been initiated by the woman, out of her own genuine affection and desire.

—Robin Morgan

In 1964, when I first went to live in Los Angeles, and for some years later, life in the upper reaches of this community was, for women, quite rigidly organized. Women left the table after dessert, and had coffee upstairs, isolated in the bedroom or dressing room with demitasse cups and rock sugar ordered from London and cinnamon sticks in lieu of demitasse spoons. On the hostess's dressing table there were always very large bottles of Fracas and Gardenia and Tuberose. The dessert that preceded this retreat (a soufflé or mousse with raspberry sauce) was inflexibly served on Flora Danica plates, and was itself preceded by the ritual of the finger bowls and the doilies.

—Joan Didion

If a woman had a problem in the 1950s and 1960s, she knew that something must be wrong with her marriage, or with herself. Other women were satisfied with their lives, she thought. What kind of a woman was she if she did not feel this mysterious fulfillment waxing the kitchen floor? She was so ashamed to admit her dissatisfaction that she never knew how many other women shared it.

—Betty Friedan

Black girls make up 16 percent of girls in U.S. public schools, but 42 percent of girls' expulsions and more than a third of girls' school-based arrests.

—Mary Ellen Flannery

Black girls are 20 percent of preschool girls, but 54 percent of the girls facing out-of-school suspension in preschool. That number, and also the disparities around corporal punishment, are two points that show how schools are assessing threats among really young children. Those of us who have seen a 6-year-old throw a tantrum know they can throw a mean tantrum—but there are ways we can respond without pushing them out of school. What this says to me is that Black girls, from a very young age, are treated as disposable. What it also says is that we need to find ways to support them.

—Mary Ellen Flannery

Fighting is essentially a masculine idea; a woman's weapon is her tongue.  
--Hermione Gingold

I have lived and slept in the same bed with English countesses and Prussian farm women... no woman has excited passions among women more than I have.  
—Florence Nightingale

For the Victorians...a woman's romantic interest in another woman could be seen as excellent preparation for marriage. Though sex between men was a criminal offense (in Britain, lesbianism was invisible before the law), there was, as yet, hardly a homosexual identity defined by same-sex desire.  
—Deborah Cohen

Don't call a woman a bitch. Call her an ass-hole. It still gets your point across and it's not sexist.  
—Eleanor Roosevelt

Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul.  
—Coretta Scott King

Many religions start with the notion that the deity is male and that, therefore, males are superior to women. This irrational idea informs boys' sexual map as they grow into men and breeds ideas such as the following: women are subservient to men; men have control over women's bodies; and men are more intelligent and closer to their god.  
—Darrel Ray

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

Girls aren't mean to guys in high school. They are mean to each other.

—Jonathan Bennett

Drink per drink, alcohol is more dangerous to young women than it is to young men, even after adjusting for differences in height and weight. Alcohol abuse appears to damage girls' brains differently and more severely than the same degree of alcohol abuse affects same-age boys.

--Leonard Sax

Narcissistic fathers leave their daughters with deep doubts about whether a man can love them, since the first important man in their life was so in love with himself that he had no love left for them. If you are a daughter of a narcissistic father you may have withdrawn from men and bound yourself to mother, either overtly or emotionally. Or you may be engaged in a self-destructive attempt to be his kind of girl, whatever that is, as you try desperately to extract his love. Perhaps you have transferred this into a masochistic position with other men, finding a narcissistic man incredibly attractive as you try to master the mystery of winning his love. And narcissistic men appeal to you because you wish you could be that way yourself—assertive, not giving a damn, self-important—but you lack the confidence to do it yourself so you identify with the man who has their quality, even if it's at your expense. (I have often seen this revealed in those instances where a woman has suffered through a degradingly submissive and abusing relationship with a man, or a series of men, and then, gaining the strength to break that kind of bondage, violently overturns the tables and abuses that man, or the next man in her life, as degradingly as she was misused. It's not just revenge, but the release of hidden desire to be powerful and to be able to control father and make him beg for her love.)

—Howard M. Halpern

An awful lot of...young women at our very best colleges are being traumatized by what takes place during so much...mindless, drunken partying when they're steeped in alcohol, which brings out the least engaging aspects of their young selves.

--Caitlin Flanagan

If a man tells a woman she is beautiful, she will overlook most of his other lies.

--Ashwin Sanghi

Women have a hard enough time in this world: telling them the truth would be too cruel.

—H. L. Mencken

Much of the lying done by men should be blamed on women: they insist on asking questions.

--Unknown

In a 2012 study testing prior findings that men are less honest than women, researchers found that women are just as likely to lie for a financial reward—if that reward is big enough.

--Julie Beck

The woman whose behavior indicates that she will make a scene if she is told the truth asks to be deceived.

—Elizabeth Jenkins

The ability to lie persuasively is one of the greatest gifts a woman can possess in this life. Some critics, principally men, will argue that deception in women is inherently evil; but having spent the last fifteen years of my life in the theater, I can attest that lying not only is sometimes expedient but can save one's career.

—Amanda DeWees

The idea that acting is quintessentially 'feminine' carries with it a barely perceptible sneer, a suggestion that it is not the noblest or most dignified of professions. Acting is role-playing, role-playing is lying, and lying is a woman's game.

--Molly Haskell

Paradoxically .. the very feminist movement that gave women more options also helped create pressure on many of us to be strong, successful, and independent—the kind of women who would theoretically be immune to any form of abuse from men. As a result, women who are in gaslighting and other types of abusive relationships may feel doubly ashamed: first, for being in a bad relationship, and second, for not living up to their self-imposed standards of strength and independence.

—Robin Stern

There are three popular explanations for the clear under-representation of women in management, namely: (1) they are not capable; (2) they are not interested; (3) they are both interested and capable but unable to break the glass-ceiling: an invisible career barrier, based on prejudiced stereotypes, that prevents women from accessing the ranks of power. Conservatives and chauvinists tend to endorse the first; liberals and feminists prefer the third; and those somewhere in the middle are usually drawn to the second.

—Tomas  
Chamorro-Premuzic

The main reason for the uneven management sex ratio is our inability to discern between confidence and competence. That is, because we (people in general) commonly misinterpret displays of confidence as a sign of competence, we are fooled into believing that men are better leaders than women. In other words, when it comes to leadership, the only advantage that men have over women (e.g., from Argentina to Norway and the USA to Japan) is the fact that manifestations of hubris—often masked as charisma or charm—are commonly mistaken for leadership potential, and that these occur much more frequently in men than in women.

—Tomas  
Chamorro-Premuzic

There is now compelling scientific evidence for the notion that women are more likely to adopt more effective leadership strategies than do men. Most notably, in a comprehensive review of studies, Alice Eagly and colleagues showed that female managers are more likely to elicit respect and pride from their followers, communicate their vision effectively, empower and mentor subordinates, and approach problem-solving in a more flexible and creative way (all characteristics of ‘transformational leadership’), as well as fairly reward direct reports. In contrast, male managers are statistically less likely to bond or connect with their subordinates, and they are relatively more inept at rewarding them for their actual performance.

—Tomas  
Chamorro-Premuzic

It is very hard to be a female leader. While it is assumed that any man, no matter how tough, has a soft side... a female leader is assumed to be one-dimensional.

—Billie Jean King

The great question that has never been answered, and which I have not yet been able to answer, despite my thirty years of research into the feminine soul, is ‘What does a woman want?’

—Sigmund Freud

If the preservation of the home means the enslavement of women, economically or morally, then we had better break it.

—Agnes Macphail

Prison guard to a woman on Death Row: What would you like for your last meal?  
Woman: I don’t know. What would you like?

—Unknown

Anyone who says he can see through women is missing a lot.

—Groucho Marx

If a man is talking in the forest and no woman is there to hear him, is he still wrong?

—Robert Glover

At first, being raped is something you simply don't talk about. Then it occurs to you that people whose houses are broken into or who are mugged in Central Park talk about it all the time....If it isn't my fault, why am I supposed to be ashamed? If I'm not ashamed, if it wasn't 'personal,' why look askance when I mention it?

—Susan Estrich

Many American men dislike women because they were dominated by them throughout childhood and early youth....The earliest recollections of the American boy, perhaps, are of holding up his hand in school and saying to a woman teacher, 'Miss Bessie, may I be excused?'

--David L. Cohn

Woman's basic fear is that she will lose love.

--Sigmund Freud

Like all sciences and all valuations, the psychology of women has hitherto been considered only from the point of view of men.

—Karen Horney

A part of a healthy conscience is being able to confront consciencelessness. When you teach your daughter, explicitly or by passive rejection, that she must ignore her outrage, that she must be kind and accepting to the point of not defending herself or other people, that she must not rock the boat for any reason, you are NOT strengthening her prosocial sense, you are damaging it—and the first person she will stop protecting is herself.

—Martha Stout

We raise our children, especially girls, to ignore their spontaneous reactions—we teach them not to rock the societal boat...By the time she is thirty, the valiant little girl's 'Ick!'—her tendency to respond, to rock the boat, when someone's actions are really mean, may have been excised from her behavior, and perhaps from her very mind.

—Martha Stout

The female brain is engineered to avoid conflicts at all cost, whereas the male brain pleasures conflicts in the purpose of being the boss.

—Abhijit Naskar

A father is available to help his daughter balance both her love and her anger toward her mother, to moderate the inevitable emotional extremes in the intense mother-daughter equation. With Daddy's steadying influence daughters can learn to be comfortable with healthy anger, rather than feeling that they must be eternal good girls who must at all costs conceal it.

—Victoria Secunda

Co-rumination: the problem of talking too much about anything. Specifically, ... when girls rehash their problems excessively, it leads to depression, anxiety, and a sense of hopelessness.

— Irene S. Levine

After years of research, depth psychologists and others argue that each sex carries both the psychological and physical traits of the other. No man is purely masculine, just as there is no purely feminine woman. Jungian psychologists call the feminine characteristics of the male psyche the Anima; the female psyche's masculine characteristics they call the Animus.

Both the Animus and Anima develop in complex fashion as the personality grows to maturity. Neither men nor women can reach psychological maturity without integrating their respective contrasexual other. A man's female elements enhance his manhood, just as a woman's male aspects enhance her womanhood.

—Douglas Gillette

Approximately 1,000 high school students will drop out with each hour that passes in a school day in America. This means that 30 percent of the class of 2007, or 1.2 million students, were estimated to have dropped out last year. The high school dropout crisis has received significant recent attention from researchers, policy makers and the media. It has been widely reported that one in three boys, and nearly 50 percent or more of some racial and ethnic groups of boys, will fail to graduate from high school with a diploma in four years. This is an alarming finding that demands prompt remedial action. What has been generally overlooked, however, is that girls, too, are dropping out of high school at dangerously high rates. In fact, one in four girls overall do not finish high school, and the numbers are worse for girls of color. One in two Native American female students, four in ten Black female students, and nearly four in ten Hispanic female students fail to graduate with a diploma each year. There are significant costs to be paid by both the individual and the nation as a whole for each and every student who drops out of high school. In general, dropouts face significant challenges to obtaining employment and achiev-

ing economic security. Female dropouts are at particular economic risk. As compared to their male peers, girls who fail to graduate from high school have higher rates of unemployment; make significantly lower wages; and are more likely to need to rely on public support programs to provide for their families. With so many students dropping out of high school each year, the aggregate drain on our nation's economy—through foregone income tax revenue and increased public spending—is substantial. At a time when every hour counts, the dropout rates and educational experiences of female students cannot be ignored.

—*National Women's Law  
Center*

Dropping out of school is a multi-generational problem. Not only are students who drop out of school likely to suffer the personal consequences of dropping out, such as lower lifetime income and worse overall health, but they are also more likely to see their own children drop out of school and suffer the same consequences. In addition, although children are particularly at risk of dropping out themselves in families where one or both parents are high school dropouts, the educational level of mothers may make a greater difference. A recent study of female students found that while the daughters of men who graduate from high school are 15% less likely to drop out of school than daughters whose fathers dropped out, the daughters of women who graduate from high school are one-third less likely to drop out of school than daughters of women who dropped out.

—*National Women's Law  
Center*

As efforts to remedy the high school dropout crisis progress, the educational experiences and dropout rates of female students must be recognized and understood. American girls are dropping out of high school at nearly the same rate as boys, and at significant cost. Female dropouts earn significantly lower wages than male dropouts, are at greater risk of unemployment, and are more likely to need to rely on public support programs. Moreover, studies suggest that barriers to high school graduation affect girls and boys in different ways and that some risk factors—particularly those related to pregnancy and parenting—are significantly more burdensome for female students. Further gender-based research and the incorporation of that research into dropout intervention strategies will be vital to improving girls' graduation rates. With the future economic security of so many young women and their families at risk, educators, researchers and policymakers cannot afford to ignore the demonstrated particularities of girls' educational experiences. Our young women deserve no less.

—*National Women's Law  
Center*

Every man thinks every woman's dream is to find the perfect man. Please! Every woman's dream is to eat without getting fat!

—Internet Meme

Girls view socially aggressive behavior to be just as hurtful as physically aggressive behavior. Socially aggressive behavior (indirect bullying) may be more salient with girls than boys, but it is just as harmful. It may be that girls are more sensitive to subtler forms of aggression, as in facial expressions and emotional games.

—Sandra L. Pollock

[Susan] Wu is struck by 'the countless times I've had to move a man's hand from my thigh (or back or shoulder or hair or arm) during a meeting (or networking event or professional lunch or brainstorming session or pitch meeting) without seeming confrontational (or bitchy or rejecting or demanding or aggressive).' In a land of grand ideas and grander funding proposals, she found that the ability to neatly reject a man's advances without injuring his ego is 'a pretty important skill that I would bet most successful women in our [tech] industry have.'

Wu learned how to calibrate the temperature of her demeanor: friendly and approachable, neither too intimate nor too distant. She learned the fine art of the three-quarters smile, as well as how to deflect conversation away from her personal life and return to topics like sports and market strategy. She learned to distinguish between actual predators and well-meaning guys who were just a bit clueless. And yet to not be overly wary, because that, too, can affect career prospects.

—Liza Mundy

Succeeding in tech as a woman requires something more treacherous than the old adage about ginger Rogers doing everything Fred Astaire did, only backwards in high heels. It's more like doing everything backwards and in heels while some guy is trying to yank at your dress, and another is telling you that a woman can't dance as well as a man, oh, and could you stop dancing for a moment and bring him something to drink?

—Liza Mundy

More than half of college and university students are women, and the percentage of women entering many STEM fields has risen. Computer science is a glaring exception: the percentage of female computer- and information-science majors peaked in 1984, at about 37 percent. It has declined, more or less steadily, ever since. Today it stands at 18 percent.

—Liza Munday

A 2015 study published in *Science* confirmed that computer science and certain other fields, including physics, math, and philosophy, fetishize ‘brilliance,’ cultivating the idea that potential is inborn. The report concluded that these fields tend to be problematic for women, owing to a stubborn assumption that genius is a male trait.

—Liza Munday

In early adolescence girls’ IQ scores drop and their math and science scores plummet.....girls lose their resiliency and optimism, become less curious, and are less inclined to take risks in early adolescence. They become more differential, self-critical, and depressed....the great unhappiness many girls feel about their bodies, noting that women have been increasingly sexualized and objectified, their bodies ‘marketed to sell tractors and toothpaste.’...the pressures girls have always faced are intensified....There is more divorce, chemical addiction, casual sex, and violence against women....girls can be themselves and grow into healthy adults....Girls can be saved by a good school, a good teacher, or a meaningful activity.

—Mary Pipher

Men at most differ as Heaven and Earth, but women, worst and best, as Heaven and Hell.

—Alfred Lord Tennyson

All the reasonings of men are not worth one sentiment of women.

—Voltaire

I feel very angry when I think of brilliant, or even interesting women whose minds are wasted on a home.

--John Kenneth  
Galbraith

No laborer in the world is expected to work for room, board, and love—except the housewife.

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

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

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

--Helen Rowland

Mothers are likely to have more bad days on the job than most other professionals, considering the hours: round-the-clock, seven days week, fifty-two weeks a year....You go to work when you're sick, maybe even clinically depressed, because motherhood is perhaps the only unpaid position where failure to show up can result in arrest.

—Mary Kay Blakely

As she looked in the full-length mirror in her dressing room, she added a few ropes of pearls, pinned a white silk camellia, and draped the Chantilly lace shawl. In that moment, Dana thought of fashion's most enduring icon who created this elegant and alluring style, and the happy personal life that eluded her. Mademoiselle Chanel died in 1971 at the age of eighty-eight while working on her spring collection, but her passion for work did not fill the void of marriage and children. Her success was costly, but clearly the choice of an uncompromising woman determined to achieve greatness on her own. She once said, 'I never wanted to weigh more heavily on a man than a bird.'

—Lynn Steward

The vote is the emblem of your equality, women of America, the guarantee of your liberty. That vote of yours has cost millions of dollars and the lives of thousands of women. Money to carry on this work has been given usually as a sacrifice, and thousands of women have gone without things they wanted and could have had in order that they might help get the vote for you. Women have suffered agony of soul which you can never comprehend, that you and your daughters might inherit political freedom. That vote has been costly. Prize it!

The vote is a power, a weapon of offense and defense, a prayer. Understand what it means and what it can do for your country. Use it intelligently, conscientiously, prayerfully. No soldier in the great suffrage army has labored and suffered to get a 'place' for you. Their motive has been the hope that women would aim higher than their own selfish ambitions, that they would serve the common good.

The vote is won. Seventy-two years the battle for this privilege has been waged, but human affairs with their eternal change move on without pause. Progress is calling to you to make no pause. Act!

—Carrie Chapman Catt  
(1920)

These were the new girls of New York—complete with rapid heartbeats from too much nicotine and coffee. They were nervous and fluttery but completely alluring—the new face of urban femininity.

—Sylvia Plath (1953)

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

—Grover Cleveland  
(1905)

Day after day, I could feel the confidence drain from my body. I was not what these guys wanted. They wanted thinner, blonder, dumber ... My sassy one-liners were only working on the cafeteria employees, who I was visiting all too frequently, tacking on not the Freshman 15, but the 30, in record-breaking time, which led my mother to make comments over winter break like, ‘You look healthy!’

—Amy Schumer

When women work together, it’s a bond unlike any other.

—Victoria Principal

Women in general want to be loved for what they are and men for what they accomplish.

—Theodor Reik

We want to look desirable. We want others to want to mate with us. No different than a colorful peacock. When girls dress up for their night out at the club, they are doing what all animals do when they try to make themselves desirable for a potential mate. That’s the whole point behind the fashion, perfume, cosmetics, diet, and plastic surgery industries.

—Oliver Markus

She first peered into its fascinating cases of beetles and butterflies at the age of six, in the company of her father. She recalls her pity at each occupant pinned for display. It was no great leap to draw the same conclusion of ladies: similarly bound and trussed, pinned and contained, with the objective of being admired, in all their gaudy beauty.

—Emmanuelle de  
Maupassant

We are expected to be pretty and well-dressed until we drop.

—Edith Wharton

If women are to be accepted into the exclusive ranks of men, then they have to look like men: buttoned up, stuffy, and no-nonsense. As if to show a little cleavage, to highlight a curvaceous figure, or to in any way appear feminine would discount, discredit, and disqualify them.

I strongly disagree with this idea. I feel that women should wear clothes that suit their bodies rather than forcing themselves into unflattering men's suits and that it is feminist to make a wide range of women's clothes acceptable business attire.

—Tim Gunn

Victorian rigidities were such that ladies were not even allowed to blow out candles in mixed company, as that required them to pucker their lips suggestively. They could not say that they were going 'to bed'--that planted too stimulating an image--but merely that they were 'retiring.' It became effectively impossible to discuss clothing in even a clinical sense without resorting to euphemisms. Trousers became 'nether integuments' or simply 'inexpressibles' and underwear was 'linen.' Women could refer among themselves to petticoats or, in hushed tones, stockings, but could mention almost nothing else that brushed bare flesh.

—Bill Bryson

It's an intrinsic part of being a woman. Every woman in the world has some part of herself that she absolutely hates.

Her hands are too small, her feet are too big, her hair is too straight, too curly, her ears stick out, her bums too flat, her nose is too big and, you know, nothing you can say will change how we feel.

What men don't understand is, the right clothes, the right shoes, the right makeup it just... It, it hides the flaws we think we have.

They make us look beautiful to ourselves.

That's what makes us look beautiful to others.

Used to be all she needed to feel beautiful was a pink tutu and a plastic tiara.

And we spend our whole lives trying to feel that way again.

—Richard Castle

While clothes may not make the woman, they certainly have a strong effect on her self-confidence, which, I believe, does make the woman.

—Mary Kay Ash

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

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

I like being a woman, even in a man's world. After all, men can't wear dresses, but we can wear the pants.

—Whitney Houston

The quickest way to know a woman is to go shopping with her.

—Marcelene Cox

No man can possibly realize how women are influenced by the clothes they wear. Put even the plainest woman into a beautiful dress and unconsciously she will try to live up to it.

--Lady Duff-Gordon

A lady is a woman who makes it easy for a man to be a gentleman.

—American Proverb

The fact of the matter is that the prime responsibility of a woman probably is to be on earth long enough to find the best mate possible for herself, and conceive children who will improve the species.

--Norman Mailer

Women, who are beginning to understand that it has benefited a patriarchal society to make adults of men by giving them all the real responsibility, and to make children of women by depriving them of all the real responsibility.

--Vivian Gornick

Growing up female in America. What a liability! You grew up with your ears full of cosmetic ads, love songs, advice columns, whorescopes, Hollywood gossip, and moral dilemmas on the level of TV soap operas. What litanies the advertisers of the good life chanted at you! What curious catechisms!

--Erica Jong

This is the hope of many adolescent girls—to capture a parent’s heart with love for them as they are, as people. They reject the notion of being loved just because they are the child of the parent. They want the parent to fall in love with them all over again, because being new, they deserve a new love.

--Terri Apter

For a man, success in life consists in getting the money; for a woman, in getting the man who gets the money.

--Unknown

Why are women... so much more interesting to men than men are to women?

—Virginia Woolf

When girls feel bad about their looks, 60 percent avoid normal daily activities like raising their hand in class or even going to the doctor. That means that girls do not show up for life when they don’t feel good enough or pretty enough. A role model can help girls see beauty as a source of confidence, not anxiety.

—Mandy Moore

Women desire six things: They want their husbands to be brave, wise, rich, generous, obedient to wife, and lively in bed.

—Geoffrey Chaucer

Like their personal lives, women’s history is fragmented, interrupted; a shadow history of human beings whose existence has been shaped by the efforts and the demands of others.

—Elizabeth Janeway

A professor I had hoped to work with in graduate school candidly told me that he couldn’t add me to his research group, because he’d already agreed to hire another woman and the group couldn’t tolerate two of us.

One tactic that we used then might be useful in tech companies. Gather as many technical women from all levels of your organization as possible and invite the men in responsible positions to join you for lunch, one at a time. This allows each man to see how it feels to be the only man in the room for at least a brief period. Although it isn’t possible to quantify the effects of these lunches, they did produce some interesting results. One admiral at the Office of Naval Research was so discomfited that he talked nonstop for an hour and a half without touching his food. Lunch groups also send a subtle message throughout the organization that women will support one another.

—Kristl Hathaway, Ph.D.

I do wish I could tell you my age but it's impossible. It keeps changing all the time.  
—Greer Garson

While at a biological disadvantage in competitions, women—who even make trips to restaurant bathrooms in pairs—are at a clear advantage when it comes to grouping together and the activities that accompany it: gossiping, sharing, bonding, assisting, scrapbooking, and building networks.

—Sandra Tsing Loh

When my children were born, I didn't have them baptized because I felt baptism was about erasing Original Sin—something the Church said children got from their mother—and I absolutely refused to believe women carry Original Sin.

—Olympia Dukakis

Girls are more academically powerful. They make the grades, they run the student activities, they are the valedictorians.

—Christina Hoff  
Sommers

Girls tend to attribute their failures to factors such as lack of ability, while boys tend to attribute failure to specific factors, including teachers' attitudes. Moreover, girls avoid situations in which failure is likely, whereas boys approach such situations as a challenge, indicating that failure differentially affects self-esteem.

--Michael Lewis

Women talk almost 3X as much as men do. An average woman speaks 20,000 words in a day, about 13,000 more than the average man. (This one won't come as a shock, but at least science put some numbers to what we all already knew).

—*theChive*

We must... guarantee women control over their own reproductive decisions.

—Henry W. Kendall

You don't find your worth in a man. You find your worth within yourself and then find a man who's worthy of you.

—Unknown

We all know that girls who compete in sports perform better in school, are physically healthier and have a stronger self-esteem.

—Louise Slaughter

Where do all the women who have watched so carefully over the lives of their beloved ones get the heroism to send them to face the canon?

--Käthe Kollwitz

Women should be permitted to volunteer for non-combat service,...they should not be accepted, voluntarily or through the draft, as combat soldiers....We know of no comparable ways of training women and girls, and we have no real way of knowing whether the kinds of training that teach men both courage and restraint would be adaptable to women or effective in a crisis. But the evidence of history and comparative studies of other species suggest that women as a fighting body might be far less amendable to the rules that prevent warfare from becoming a massacre and, with the use of modern weapons, that protect the survival of all humanity. This is what I meant by saying that women in combat might be too fierce.

--Margaret Mead

I was, and still am, convinced that the women of the world, united without any regard for national or racial dimensions, can become a most powerful force for international peace and brotherhood.

--Coretta Scott King

If she has a good, strong, reliable father image, which is hard to find these days, that will be her image of men, probably for the rest of her life. She'll look for a husband who embodies those qualities.

—Robert Johnson

I refuse to admit that I am more than fifty-two, even if that does make my sons illegitimate.

—Nancy Astor

Resolved, that the women of this nation in 1876, have greater cause for discontent, rebellion and revolution than the men of 1776.

--Susan B. Anthony

In revenge and in love woman is more barbarous than man.

--Friedrich Wilhelm  
Nietzsche

A man falls in love through his eyes, a woman through her ears.

--Woodrow Wyatt

To men, love is an incident; to women a vocation. They live by and for their emotions.

--Denis Diderot

Love is based on a view of women that is impossible to those who have had any experience with them.

--H. L. Mencken

When a woman in love reaches a certain age, though her heart may cease to sing, her eyes remain veiled with gratitude.

—Colette

However dull a woman may be, she will understand all there is of love; however intelligent a man may be, he will never know but half of it.

--Madame Fée

A woman in love never takes advice.

--Rosamond Marshall

Love is a fraud perpetrated by the female sex.

--William S. Burroughs

A woman unsatisfied must have luxuries. But a woman who loves a man would sleep on a board.

--D. H. Lawrence

But what of black women?...I most sincerely doubt if any other race of women could have brought its fineness up through so devilish a fire.

--W. E. B. Du Bois  
(1868-1963)

Living in a society where the objective social position and the reputed virtues of white women smother whatever worth black women may have, the Negro male is put to judging his women by what he sees and imagines the white woman is.

--Calvin Hernton

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman?

--Sojourner Truth (1851)

When you're a black woman, you seldom get to do what you just want to do; you always do what you have to do.

--Dorothy I. Height

The myth of the strong black woman is the other side of the coin of the myth of the beautiful dumb blonde.

--Eldridge Cleaver

The number of female-headed households continues to grow among black families. Let it be known that the problem with such households is not that a woman is in charge. The problem is that they are poor households.

--Johnetta B. Cole

We are not afraid to rock the boat. Making waves. This is what Asian American women have done and will continue to do.

--*Asian Women United of California*

To be black and female, in a society which is both racist and sexist, is to be in a unique position of having nowhere to go but up.

--Rosemary Brown

On the road to equality there is no better place for blacks to detour around American values than in foregoing its example in the treatment of its women and the organization of its family life.

--Eleanor Holmes Norton

Excellence is the best deterrent to racism or sexism.

--Oprah Winfrey

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

The true worth of a race must be measured by the character of its womanhood.

--Mary McLeod Bethune  
(1875-1955)

When they told me my new-born babe was a girl, my heart was heavier than it had ever been before. Slavery is terrible for men; but it is far more terrible for women.

--Harriet Ann Jacobs  
(1813-1897)

To me, the black black woman is our essential mother; the blacker she is the more us she is, and to see the hatred that is turned on her is enough to make me despair, almost entirely, of our future as a people.

—Alice Walker

### **SILENCE**

Too many women in too many countries speak the same language—of silence.

My grandmother was always silent, always aggrieved, only her husband had the cosmic right (or so it was said) to speak and be heard.

They say it is different now, but sometimes, I wonder. When a woman gives her love, as most do, generously, it is accepted. When a woman shares her thoughts, as some women do, graciously, it is allowed.

When a woman fights for power, as all women would like to, quietly or loudly, it is questioned.

And yet, there must be freedom, if we are to speak. And yes, there must be power, if we are to be heard. And When we have both (freedom and power), let us not be misunderstood.

--Anasuya Sengupta

Girls are complicated. The instruction manual that comes with girls is 800 pages, with chapters 14, 19, 26 and 32 missing, and it's badly translated, hard to figure out

—Hugh Laurie

One cannot depend on woman's friendship, for she gives everything to love.

--Epigram

You just can't predict the course of friendship among girls at this age (9-12). There's a need—varying in intensity according to the individual—for Gibraltar-like attachments in this betwixt-and-between period. Impressive sophistication and maturity exist side by side with fearsome anxiety about the changing body, the person-to-be. The 'best friends' are anchors against these tides of confusion....Girls need the support and backing of a group to relieve their anxieties about who they are and who they're going to be.

--Stella Chess

Men talk, but rarely about anything personal. Recent research on friendship... has shown that male relationships are based on shared activities: men tend to do things together rather than simply be together....Female friendships, particularly close friendships, are usually based on self-disclosure, or on talking about intimate aspects of their lives.

--Bettina Arndt

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* was the first evidence to America that no hurricane can be so disastrous to a country as a ruthlessly humanitarian woman.

--Sinclair Lewis

Behind every successful woman is a basket of dirty laundry.

—Unknown

No friendship is as intimate as that of girl for girl, and no enmity as intense as that of woman for woman.

--Walter Savage Landor

The friendship of two women is always a plot against a third.

--Evan Esar

Men kick friendship around like a football, but it doesn't seem to crack. Women treat it like glass and it goes to pieces.

--Anne Morrow  
Lindbergh

Every girl needs a best friend to help her laugh when she thinks she'll never smile again.

—Unknown

We weren't sisters by birth...but we knew from the start, fate brought us together, to be sisters by heart.

--Unknown

Even if the marriage doesn't last forever, bridesmaids do.

—Christie Hefner

The life of a woman can be divided into three epochs; in the first she dreams of love, in the second she experiences it, in the third she regrets it.

--St. Prosper

War, famine, poverty and oppression of the workers will continue while woman makes life cheap. They will cease only when she limits her reproductivity and human life is no longer a thing to be wasted.

—Margaret Sanger

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

--Sydney Harris

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

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

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

--Margaret Mead

A wife, so often, is her mother.

--Gail Sheehy

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

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

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

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

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

--Elinor Glyn

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

—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

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

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

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

--Unknown

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

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

--Philip Cohen

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

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*)

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

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

—Ivan Turgenev

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

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

Girls are taught to be perfect. Boys are taught to be brave—'Stop crying.' That's why girls never think they are good enough; it's the message we get from the day we're born. It drives me insane the way we're socialized. The most important thing is to be your authentic self.

—Billie Jean King

Men fear and hate women more than women fear and hate men. I think it is this rather than the male's superior strength that makes it possible for our civilization to be called 'a man's world.' It is not a contest of strength; it is a contest of hate.

--Dr. Karl Menninger

The male has been taught that he is superior to women in nearly every way, and this is reinforced by the submissive tactics of many women in their desperate antics of flirtation and hunting; it would be a wonder if the average male did not come to believe that he was superior.

--Joyce Carol Oates

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

—Simone de Beauvoir

Women have more strength in their looks than we have in our laws, and more power in their tears than we have by our arguments.

--John Faucit Saville

Alpha men are very turned on by the Alpha woman – really high chemistry, really fun to work with, probably really fun to have affairs with. But there can only be one person in the driver's seat.

—Alanis Morissette

Without woman the beginning of our life would be helpless, the middle without pleasure, and the end void of consolation.

--Victor de Jouy

Men are like the earth and we are like the moon; we turn always one side to them and they think there is no other.

--Olive Schreiner

Bad judgment and carelessness are not punishable by rape.

--Pearl Cleage

Woman is as fickle as a feather in the wind.

--Francesco Maria Piave

Whimsy, not reason, is the female guide.

--George Granville

When I say that I know women; I mean I know that I don't know them. Every single woman I ever knew is a puzzle to me, as, I have no doubt she is to herself.

—William Makepeace  
Thackeray

There is no accounting for the actions of a woman.

--Napoleon I

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

Women are constantly being given double messages: society preaches purity and the media portrays women as nothing but sex objects.

--Ellen Frankfort

God made men stronger but not necessarily more intelligent. He gave women intuition and femininity. And, used properly, that combination easily jumbles the brain of any man I've ever met.

--Farrah Fawcett-Majors

Men are polygamous,  
Women monogamous.

—Unknown

Why haven't women got labels on their foreheads saying 'Danger: Government Health Warning: Women can seriously damage your brains, genitals, current account, confidence, razor blades, and good standing among your friends.'

--Jeffrey Bernard

No woman need feel the smallest twinge of shame at being as stupid as an egg. Plain women should know just a little more than pretty ones, and downright ugly ones just a bit more still; but no woman, whatever her physiognomy, should know more than a man. That is, if she wants to be loved by him.

--Virginia Graham

A woman's need to be circumferenced by a man is as strong and biologic as ever.

--Edna O'Brien

If you get a good woman, you get the finest thing on earth.

--Baroness Burton

If I were a girl, I'd despair: the supply of good women far exceeds that of the men who deserve them.

--Robert Graves

There are three things I have always loved but never understood: art, music and women.

--Bernard Le Bovier  
de Fontenelle

Fifty percent of the world are women, yet they always seem a novelty.

--Christopher Morley

I know what women expect, and give it to them without disagreeable argument—they'll get it anyway.

--Ed Howe

Girls are like apples on trees. The best ones are at the top of the tree. The boys don't want to reach for the good ones because they are afraid of falling and getting hurt.

Instead, they just get the rotten apples from the ground that aren't as good, but easy.

So the apples at the top think something is wrong with them, when in reality, they're amazing.

They just have to wait for the right boy to come along, the one who's brave enough to climb all the way to the top of the tree.

--Pete Wentz

As women have climbed ever higher, men have been falling behind. We've arrived at the top of the staircase, finally ready to start our lives, only to discover a cavernous room at the tail end of a party, most of the men gone already, some having never shown up—and those who remain are leering by the cheese table, or are, you know, the ones you don't want to go out with.

--Kate Bolick

Females are still programmed to look for older men with resources, while males are still programmed to look for younger women with adoring gazes.

--Maureen Dowd

Never, under any circumstances tell a woman she's crazy unless you actually want to see crazy.

—Ged Backland

A woman's perfume tells more about her than her handwriting.

—Christian Dior

Women spend more time thinking about what men think than men actually spend thinking.

—*someecards.com*

Those most likely to be raped or sexually assaulted are young women between the ages of 16 and 24, women with their whole lives ahead of them. This one act of violence will alter their lives forever.

—Rosa DeLauro

Most fathers don't see the war within the daughter, her struggles with conflicting images of the idealized and flawed father, her temptation both to retreat to Daddy's lap and protection and to push out of his embrace to that of beau and the world beyond home.

--Victoria Secunda

Everybody could be beautiful, really, but most women present themselves so awkwardly. Women should set themselves forth attractively but innocently, like a cat. A cat is never a presentation, but an innocent happening.

--Alwin Nikolais

To be so beautiful, so alluring, that the man forgets all else and simply loves, that is what every woman wants, and whoever denies it is in error, or willfully lying.

--Georg Groddeckap

A man has his clothes made to fit him; a woman makes herself fit her clothes.

--Edgar Watson Howe

Good clothes open all doors.

—Thomas Fuller

There are no ugly women; there are only women who do not know how to look pretty.

--Jean De La Bruyere

Women who are either indisputably beautiful, or indisputably ugly, are best flattered upon the score of their understandings; but those who are in a state of mediocrity are best flattered upon their beauty, or at least their graces; for every woman who is not absolutely ugly thinks herself handsome.

--Philip Dormer Stanhope

To be born a woman is to know—  
Although they do not talk of it at school—  
That we must labor to be beautiful.

--William Butler Yeats

Women dress alike all over the world: they dress to be annoying to other women.

--Elsa Schiaparelli

What one beholds of a woman is the least part of her.

--Ovid

A professional woman should dress at least two steps above her current position.  
You do not dress where you are; you dress where you want to be.

--Unknown

There is no such thing as an ugly woman—there are only the ones who do not know how to make themselves attractive.

--Christian Dior

The affluent, educated, liberated women of the First World...do not feel as free as they want to...This lack of freedom has something to do with apparently frivolous issues, things that really should not matter. Many are ashamed to admit that such trivial concerns—to do with physical appearance, bodies, faces, hair, clothes—matter so much.

--Naomi Wolf

Women really go beyond the call of duty to attract men. I wonder what a man would do in a similar situation. Let's say someone decided that in order for a man to look attractive in a bathing suit to a woman he had to pour hot wax dangerously near to the most sensitive part of his body and have it ripped off at least once every two months. How many men do you think would sign up? I think Evil Knievel would say, 'Too risky.'

--Rita Rudner

American women: How they mortify the flesh in order to make it appetizing! Their beauty is a vast industry, their enduring allure a discipline which nuns or athletes might find excessive.

—Malcolm Muggeridge

The clothes that make a woman break a man.

--Unknown

There's a huge difference between accepting something and believing something. While maturity and practice make women better at accepting compliments, very few of us actually believe them. Women, for many unknown reasons, will believe almost any negative comment you say about them, but never anything positive. ....maybe it's from the ridiculous amount of beauty standards the media places on us, but we've developed a compliment repellent armor, and it's been deflecting them for years. Why is it one bad comment will remain with a woman for the rest of her life, yet a million good ones will go in one ear and out the other? Why is it we always remember the bad and never the good?

— Lauren Martin

When we're exposed to airbrushed models and celebrity 'It Girls' with nothing but time and money to eat organic, work out and pay for plastic surgery, we hold ourselves up to that impossible standard. We are told they are beautiful, they are perfect, and we're the second-rate version, the imperfect second-best.

— Lauren Martin

All women, whether they go to work in a bus or a Bentley, worry about what to wear.

--Mary Quant

Any girl can be glamorous. All you have to do is stand still and look stupid.

--Hedy Lamarr

Women swear up and down that looks are not nearly as important to them as they are to men, that a woman will not hesitate to marry an unattractive man if he has other compensatory qualities, such as a sense of humor or a highly developed intellect or a villa in Tuscany. I only believe the part about the villa in Tuscany.

--Joe Queenan

I'm intrigued by the way in which physical appearance can often direct a person's life; things happen differently for a beautiful woman than for a plain one.

--Penelope Lively

The most significant fashion innovation is definitely the high heel. None of us looks sexy or powerful or stylish walking around on our knees. Height, and the ability to dominate—sexually, stylishly, politically, interpersonally—is our principal social currency.

--Simon Doonan

Joy is the best makeup.

—Anne Lamott

I don't go out without make up. I'm a woman, you know.

—Shakira

Don't tell me I'm 'too tall' just because my height happens to threaten your rather fragile sense of masculinity. The fact that men cannot physically look down upon women who are taller than them is the very reason that many men find tall women so intimidating.

—Miya Yamanouchi

'When women wear make-up they're basically lying to us.' I don't see why I'm being blamed for a man stupid enough to think I have gold, sparkly eyelids.

—*facebook.com / QueenofSass*

If it takes more than an hour to get ready, then you might not be as cute as you think you are.

—*someecards.com*

She was beautiful, but not like those girls in the magazines. She was beautiful, for the way she thought. She was beautiful, for that sparkle in her eyes when she talked about something she loved. She was beautiful, for her ability to make other people smile even if she was sad. No, she wasn't beautiful for something as temporary as her looks. She was beautiful, deep down to her soul.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

Curvy women are real women. Skinny women are real women. Women who have had boob jobs or lip enhancements or liposuction are still real women. Size 0 may make no sense mathematically, but a woman who wears that size is as real as the one who wears a size 16. What makes us 'real' people is not the shape of our flesh but our basic humanity. And we lose our humanity when we judge—not when we lose weight, gain weight, or make the intensely personal decision to undergo cosmetic surgery.

—Hugo Schwyzer

Go out all day looking fabulous and I see no one I know. Go out for 5 minutes looking like crap, and it's all of a sudden a damn reunion.

—Unknown

One in three women admit that they refuse to leave the house without makeup on.

—*Stylecaster*

Half of women, out of 1,292 surveyed, have negative feelings when they don't wear makeup. 76% of women surveyed suffer from negative emotions when they go natural.

—*Empowher*

I think every single girl should take pride in her appearance. I also think that as women grow up we should be professional. You have to exude a professional appearance, but I do not think that has to mean glamor over the top if that is not something you're interested in.

—Julie Osterhaus

We get so worried about being pretty. Instead let's worry about being: pretty kind, pretty funny, pretty smart, & pretty strong.

—Ged Backland

There is an epidemic right now of girls dumbing themselves down... in middle school because they think it makes them attractive.

—Danica Mckellar

Being a sex symbol has to do with an attitude, not looks. Most men think it's looks, most women know otherwise.

—Kathleen Turner

## **YOU'RE NOT UGLY AT ALL**

Have you ever noticed, that when you look at yourself,  
Really look at yourself,  
You're not ugly at all.

I don't mean how you look when you've just finished your face in the mirror  
Not after you've perfected that cat-eye liner  
Not after you've applied your bright red lips  
Not after you've blushed your cheeks just the right amount

I mean when your face is naked  
When you've just stepped out of the shower  
When you can see those freckles,

When you can see that acne  
When you can see those bags under your eyes

You spend too much time hating those tiny imperfections,  
Too much time shredding your self esteem  
But the makeup gets caught in the cracks of your façade  
And those all too obvious insecurities are magnified  
You try so hard to cover those scars  
That you can't see you're just making it worse

Why is it so difficult to love what is natural?  
Why are you made to feel bad about something you were born with?  
About something out of your control?  
Why does it always seem like everyone looks perfect but you?  
Like out of a whole production line of dolls, you were the only defective one?

Because society says so  
Because the models in the magazines you read look like alien beings of perfection  
But why do you listen to what society says?  
Haven't you realized that 99% of society does not look anything like the ideal of  
beauty they advocate?

Those models in those magazines don't even like what they look like, even though  
they are deemed the ideal

You need to love what you were born with  
You need to love who you are when you are alone in the bathroom, no makeup on,  
just you and your reflection  
Because if you heal those internal scars that you tried so hard to cover with makeup  
You won't be broken anymore, you'll be whole  
And you'll find that you're a hell of a lot prettier than you gave yourself credit for.

You'll realize that you weren't ugly at all.

—Turner Collins

To start telling people that you're beautiful, or just feel beautiful, just start acting  
like you are the most beautiful woman in the world. And it really improves every-  
thing! Because your sort of psyche responds to it—like this is truthful!

—Margaret Cho

When a man gets up to speak, people listen then look. When a woman gets up, people look; then, if they like what they see, they listen.

--Pauline Frederick

In categories like cars or clothes, brands aren't just signals of quality; they also help us communicate our identities. When somebody totes a Fendi bag or drives a Harley-Davidson chopper, she is sending a message (particularly when doing both at the same time).

—Derek Thompson

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

--Cyril Connolly

That's the key, you know, confidence. I know for a fact that if you genuinely like your body, so can others. It doesn't really matter if it's short, tall, fat or thin, it just matters that you can find some things to like about it. Even if that means having a good laugh at the bits of it that wobble independently, occasionally, that's all right. It might take you a while to believe me on this one, lots of people don't because they seem to suffer from self-hatred that precludes them from imagining that a big woman could ever love herself because they don't. But I do. I know what I've got is a bit strange and difficult to love but those are the very aspects that I love the most! It's a bit like people. I've never been particularly attracted to the uniform of conventional beauty. I'm always a bit suspicious of people who feel compelled to conform. I personally like the adventure of difference. And what's beauty, anyway?

—Dawn French

I would rather lose a good earring than be caught without make-up.

—Lana Turner

Why is it considered seductive for women to wear beautiful clothes? Wouldn't it make more sense to wear something so ugly that a guy couldn't wait to take it off you?

—Flash Rosenberg

Why do women want to dress like men when they're fortunate enough to be women? Why lose femininity, which is one of our greatest charms? We get more accomplished by being charming than we would be flaunting around in pants and smoking. I'm very fond of men. I think they are wonderful creatures. I love them dearly. But I don't want to look like one. When women gave up their long skirts, they made a grave error.

—Tasha Tudor

What is it about wearing a tuxedo or that little black dress, that makes us feel confident, beautiful, splendid, even invincible?

We put on formal wear and suddenly we become extraordinary.

On the days when you feel low and invisible, why not try this on for size: imagine you are wearing a fantastic tailored tuxedo or a stunning formal gown.

And then proceed with your day.

—Vera Nazarian

Why hoard away so many back-issues of *People Magazine*? Fashion magazines are just empty promises. You can go bankrupt blowing all your cash on expensive beauty products, but the only way you'll ever look just like the people on those glossy front covers is if you know how to use computer editing software for photographs. Besides, people who think they are ugly, are never really all that ugly anyway. People who think they are pretty, are rarely ever all that pretty.

—Rebecca McNutt

What we wear affects how we feel, how we act, how we move. And that they do notice. Especially the move. Get dressed, smoke the eyes. You'll know you look good so you'll feel good. You'll have a better time.

—Nora Roberts

Antoinette had squinty eyes she could barely open under the six pounds of mascara and teal eye shadow she must've applied with a paint roller, and lips that were puckered on a permanent basis as if she were storing lemons in the deep recesses of her jowls. She smelled like a bull that got loose in a perfume shop, and had pointy high heeled shoes that threatened to burst out the sides at any moment from the pressure of being three sizes too small.

—Nicole Castle

At its best fashion is a game. But for women it's a compulsory game, like net ball, and you can't get out of it by faking your period. I know I have tried. And so for a woman every outfit is a hopeful spell, cast to influence the outcome of the day. An act of trying to predict your fate, like looking at your horoscope. No wonder there are so many fashion magazines. No wonder the fashion industry is worth an estimated 900 billion dollars a year. No wonder every woman's first thought is, for nearly every event in her life, be it work, snow or birth. The semi-despairing cry of 'but what will I wear?' Because when a woman says I have nothing to wear, what she really means is there is nothing here for who I am supposed to be today.

—Caitlin Moran

Make up is generally there to make you look better, not make you look like you're wearing make up.

—Hadley Freeman

If a woman's young and pretty, I think you can see her good looks all the better for being plainly dressed.

--George Eliot

Almost any woman can dress well enough to attract the admiration of a man; it is the test of a well-dressed woman that she can attract the admiration of other women.

--Robert Lynd

Just around the corner in every woman's mind—is a lovely dress, a wonderful suit, or entire costume which will make an enchanting new creature of her.

—Wilhela Cushman

Remember that always dressing in understated good taste is the same as playing dead.

—Susan Catherine

Smart girls like to hear they're pretty. Pretty girls like to hear they're smart.

—Unknown

A useful education served women best, More thought. To 'learn how to grow old gracefully is perhaps one of the rarest and most valuable arts which can be taught to a woman.' Yet, when beauty is all that is expected or desired in a woman, she is left with nothing in its absence. It 'is a most severe trial for those women to be called to lay down beauty, who have nothing else to take up. It is for this sober season of life that education should lay up its rich resources,' she argued.

—Karen Swallow Prior

'Look, girls know when they're cute,' he said. 'You don't have to tell them. All they need to do is look in the mirror. I have one friend out in New York, an attorney. She moved out there after the school year to take the bar. She doesn't have a job. I was like, 'How are you going to get a job there in this market?' And she's like, 'I'll wink and I'll smile.' She's a pretty girl. Whether that works despite her poor grades is yet to be seen.'

--Daniel Amory

There is nothing touches our imagination so much as a beautiful woman in a plain dress.

—Joseph Addison

It matters more what's in a woman's face than what's on it.

—Claudette Colbert

You think he's going to like you better, but then one day you look in the mirror and realize you've changed yourself—physically and emotionally—into a woman who's totally different from the one he was attracted to the first place.

—Shelley Duvall

You may try but you can never imagine what it is to have a man's form of genius in you, and to suffer the slavery of being a girl.

—George Eliot

We have many cases of men committing suicide rather than face their own individuality. I know of no case of a woman who committed suicide because she was gay.

—George Weinberg

The curve is more powerful than the sword.

—Mae West

The bitches, as Shannon saw it, came in three varieties. She categorized them on her personal blog, in a post titled 'Beware the Female Big Law Partner.'

First was the 'aggressive bitch'—a certain kind of high-ranking woman that the firm where she worked who didn't think twice about 'verbally assaulting anyone.' When one such partner's name appeared on caller ID, Shannon told me, 'we would just freak out.'

Next was the two-faced 'passive aggressive bitch,' whose 'subtle, semi-rude emails hinted that you really shouldn't leave before 6:30.' She was arguably worse than the aggressive bitch, because you might never know where you stand.

Last but not least, but 'tuned out, indifferent bitch,' Shannon wrote, 'is so busy, both with work, and family, that they don't have time for anything... This partner is not trying to be mean, but hey, they got assignments at midnight when they were associates. So you will too.'

—Olga Khazan

Today, I was all dressed up and waiting on my blind date to arrive. He never showed up. It made me feel ugly. I thought he may have seen me from a distance and bailed. Then as I left the restaurant alone, I heard a little girl ask her mom if I was a princess. It made me smile.

—*makesmethink.com*

The firm's pace was as frenzied as she'd feared. Partners would assign projects late in the day, she said, sometimes forcing associates to work through the night only to announce in the morning that the assignment wasn't needed after all. When Shannon wanted to leave at the early hour of 7 p.m., she would sneak out of her office, creep past the elevators, and take the stairs down to evade her bosses. She took up smoking to deal with the stress.

—Olga Khazan

They were slavishly devoted to their jobs, regularly working until nine or 10 at night. Making partner meant either not having children or hiring both day- and nighttime nannies to care for them. "There's hostility among the women who have made it," she said. "It's like, 'I gave this up. You're going to have to give it up too.'"

—Olga Khazan

She divides her past female managers into 'Dragon Ladies' and 'Softies Who Nice Their Way Upwards.' She'd rather work for men because, she says, they're more forthright. With the women, I'm partly being judged on my abilities and partly being judged on whether or not I'm 'a friend' or 'nice,' or 'fun,'... That's some playground BS.

—Olga Khazan

Large surveys by *Pew* and *Gallup* as well as several academic studies show that when women have a preference as to the gender of their bosses and colleagues, that preference is largely for men. A 2009 study published in the journal *Gender in Management* found, for example, that although women believe other women make good managers, 'the female workers did not actually want to work for them.' The longer a woman had been in the workforce, the less likely she was to want a female boss.

—Olga Khazan

Women are people. If the only way to get ahead is to run like hell away from other women, some women are going to do that.

—Joan C. Williams

In 2011, Kim Ellessor, a lecturer at UCLA, analyzed responses from more than 60,000 people and found that women—even those who were managers themselves—were more likely to want a male boss than a female one. The participants explained that female bosses are ‘emotional,’ ‘catty,’ or ‘bitchy.’ (Men preferred male bosses too, but by a smaller margin than the female participants did.)

—Olga Khazan

Women are evolutionarily predestined not to collaborate with women they are not related to. Women and girls are less willing than men and boys to cooperate with lower-status individuals of the same gender; more likely to dissolve same gender friendships; and more willing to socially exclude one another.

—Joyce Benenson,  
Psychologist

Women undermine one another because they have always had to compete for mates and for resources for their offspring. Helping another woman might give that woman an edge in the hot-Neanderthal dating market, or might give her children an advantage over your own, so you frostily snub her. Women can gather around smiling and laughing, exchanging polite, intimate, and even warm conversation, while simultaneously destroying one another’s careers. The contrast is jarring.

—Joyce Benenson,  
Psychologist

One day on her way to work, Rozenfeld tripped on the parking garage steps and twisted her ankle. It swelled as the day wore on, and she worried that it would get even worse. She wasn’t particularly busy, so she knocked on her boss’s door and asked whether she could leave early to see a doctor. Her boss asked Rozenfeld to come in and close the door.

‘You know, I had high hopes for you,’ Rozenfeld remembered her saying. Her boss questioned why ‘you feel like you can leave when things like this happen.’

‘But I feel like I’m not going to be able to walk,’ Rozenfeld said.

‘I will tell you something about my career and how I got to be where I am today,’ her boss continued. ‘Do you know how many times I worked with men who basically sexually harassed me? Do you know that man over there missed his kid’s high-school graduation because he was working on a proposal? And you have a sprained ankle and you think it’s okay to leave?’

As tears welled in her eyes, Rozenfeld realized that she was never going to be the kind of worker her boss wanted. Six months later, she quit.

—Olga Khazan

Boys will be boys, but girls must be goddesses.

—Madeleine May Kunin

**System Justification:** a psychological concept in which long-oppressed groups, struggling to make sense of an unfair world, internalize negative stereotypes. Women simply don't have the same status in American life that men do. So when people think, Who do I want to work with?, they subconsciously leap to the default, the historically revered—the man. Some women look around, see few women running things, and assume that there must be something wrong with women themselves.

—Laurie Rudman

There is a group of antifeminist women who exemplify what we call the Queen Bee syndrome...The true Queen Bee has made it in the 'man's world' of work, while running a house and family with her left hand. 'If I can do it without a whole movement to help me,' runs her attitude, 'so can all those other women.'

—Carol Tavris, Graham  
Staines, Toby  
Epstein Jayaratne

Girls have born the brunt of the rise in depressive symptoms among today's teens. Boys' depressive symptoms increased by 21 percent from 2012 to 2015, while the girls' increased by 50 percent—more than twice as much. The rise in suicide, too, is more pronounced among girls. Although the rate increased for both sexes, three times as many 12-to-14 year old girls killed themselves in 2015 as in 2007, compared with twice as many boys. The suicide rate is still higher for boys, in part because they use more-lethal methods, but girls are beginning to close the gap.

—Jean M. Twenge

Boys end to bully one another physically, while girls are more likely to do so by undermining a victim's social status or relationships. Social media give middle-and high-school girls a platform on which to carry out the style of aggression they favor, ostracizing and excluding other girls around the clock.

—Jean M. Twenge

The main thing today is shopping. Years ago a person, he was unhappy, didn't know what to do...he'd go to church, start a revolution—something. Today you're unhappy? Can't figure it out?...Go shopping.

--Arthur Miller

Outstanding beauty, like outstanding gifts of any kind, tends to get in the way of normal emotional development, and thus of that particular success in life which we call happiness.

--Milton R. Sapirstein

I spit on your happiness! I spit on your idea of life—that life that must go on, come what may. You are all like dogs that lick everything they smell. You with your promise of a humdrum happiness—provided a person doesn't ask too much of life. I want everything of life, I do; and I want it now! I want it total, complete: otherwise I reject it! I will not be moderate. I will not be satisfied with the bite of cake you offer me if I promise to be a good little girl. I want to be sure of everything this very day; sure that everything will be as beautiful as when I was a little girl. If not, I want to die!

—Antigone in Sophocles  
*Antigone*

Never teach false morality. How exquisitely absurd to teach a girl that beauty is of no value, dress of no use! Beauty is of value—her whole prospects and happiness in life may often depend upon a new gown or a becoming bonnet; if she has five grains of common sense, she will find this out. The great thing is to teach her their just value, and that there must be something better under the bonnet than a pretty face, for real happiness. But never sacrifice truth.

--Sydney Smith

Many women miss their greatest chance of happiness through a want of courage in the decisive moments of their lives.

--Winifred Gordon

A woman has a dozen different ways to make a man happy, and a hundred ways to make him unhappy.

--James G. Huneker

Nobody bores any man as much as an unhappy female.

—Moss Hart

Home is the girl's prison and the woman's workhouse.

--George Bernard Shaw

Woman is the salvation or the destruction of the family. She carries its destiny in the folds of her mantle.

--Henri Frederic Amiel

I constantly felt (as I suppose many an ambitious girl has felt) a thumping from within unanswered by any beckoning from without.

—Anna Julia Cooper

Men make houses, women make homes.

--Proverb

Womanliness means only motherhood; All love begins and ends there.

--Robert Browning

It is the personality of the mistress that the home expresses. Men are forever guests in our homes, no matter how much happiness they may find there.

--Elsie De Wolfe

To be sure, changes in American family structure have been fairly continuous since the first European settlements, but today these changes seem to be occurring so rapidly that the shift is no longer a simple extension of long-term trends. We have passed a genuine watershed: this is the first time in our history that the typical school-age child has a mother who works outside the home.

--Kenneth Keniston

Some women are such bad cooks that their families pray before every meal.

—Evan Esar

Fathers are still considered the most important 'doers' in our culture, and in most families they are that. Girls see them as the family authorities on careers, and so fathers' encouragement and counsel is important to them. When fathers don't take their daughters' achievements and plans seriously, girls sometimes have trouble taking themselves seriously.

—Stella Chess

Driven by a sense of mischief, flappers dressed to be rather smart and naughty.

—Colleen Moore

Like their mothers and grandmothers, flappers tended to go to high school and even college, and they devoured new books featuring confident, fun-loving adolescent heroines who hiked and camped and solved mysteries. Flappers biked, played golf and tennis, and strove to emulate the flat-chested and hipless physiques of the adolescent boys whose freedom and lack of domestic responsibilities they envied. Predictably, these stylish tomboys were a grave source of worry to parents, educators, physicians and clergymen, who feared that sports and higher education would be ruinous.

—Linda Simon

Woman in the home has not yet lost her dignity, in spite of Mother's Day, with its offensive implication that our love needs an annual nudging, like our enthusiasm for the battle of Bunker Hill.

--John Erskine

### **EXCUSE THIS HOUSE**

Some houses try to hide the fact that children shelter there—

Ours boasts of it quite openly,  
The signs are everywhere—  
For smears are on the windows,  
Little smudges on the doors;  
I should apologize I guess for toys strewn on the floor.

But I sat down with the children  
And we played and laughed and read;  
And if the doorbell doesn't shine,  
Their eyes will shine instead.

For when at times I'm forced to choose  
The one job or the other;  
I want to be a housewife—  
But first I'll be a mother.

—Unknown

As mothers and daughters, we are connected with one another. My mother is the bones of my spine, keeping me straight and true. She is my blood, making sure it runs rich and strong. She is the beating of my heart. I cannot now imagine a life without her.

—Kristin Hannah

New Rule: Designers of women's Halloween costumes must admit that they're not even trying. They just choose a random profession, like nurse or referee, and put the word 'sexy' in front of it, thereby perpetuating the idea of Halloween as a day when normally shy women release their inner sluts and parade around like vixens, and I just completely forgot what I was complaining about.

--Bill Maher

Women complain about PMS, but I think of it as the only time of the month when I can be myself.

—Roseanne Barr

From the baking aisle to the post office line to the wrapping paper bin in the attic, women populate every dark corner of Christmas. Who got up at 4 a.m. to put the ham in the oven? A woman. . . . Who sent the Christmas card describing her eighteen-year-old son's incarceration as 'a short break before college?' A woman. Who remembered to include batteries at the bottom of each stocking? A woman. And who gets credit for pulling it all off?

Santa.

That's right. A man.

--Rachel Held Evans

Not being assaulted is not a privilege to be earned through the judicious application of personal safety strategies. A woman should be able to walk down the street at 4 in the morning in nothing but her socks, blind drunk, without being assaulted, and I, for one, am not going to do anything to imply that she is in any way responsible for her own assault if she fails to Adequately Protect Herself. Men aren't helpless dick-driven maniacs who can't help raping a vulnerable woman. It disrespects EVERYONE.

--Emily Nagoski

The most basic bit of advice given to women who have to walk alone at night is, 'Look alert. Be aware of your surroundings and walk briskly. You will be safer if you know where you are going, and if anyone who observes you senses that.' The stalking, predatory animal cuts the weakest from the pack, and then kills at his leisure.

--Ann Rule

You can tell a lot about a woman's mood by just looking at her hands... for instance, if she's holding a gun, she's probably angry.

--Roney Ngala

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)

Old age is woman's hell.

--Ninon de L'Enclos

If indeed the world is ready to offer new opportunities to older women—then who will be left to watch the grandkids? Let's see: Who, at 60-something, might be looking for a new challenge? An emotionally rewarding second act? Who got promoted early, peaked early, and now has ample free time for Legos, tea parties, and reading stories? Has anybody thought about a good occupation for Bill Clinton, now that he has achieved so much? Or, someday, Barack Obama? Why were older men put on this Earth, anyway?

—Liza Mundy

I think for a woman, the hardest thing about growing old is becoming invisible. There's something very front and center about being young.

—Amy Grant

I'm a woman that loves make-up and getting dressed up. As I get older, I don't look as good, but I don't give a damn. There's a huge pressure on young girls to look a certain way these days but, as I age, I've lost that incredible insecurity of youth.

—Helen Mirren

Right now, too many women who reach retirement age find themselves widowed or single, relying on their Social Security check for over half of their income.

—Judy Biggert

Women grow radical with age. One day an army of gray-haired women may quietly take over the earth.

—Gloria Steinem

You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.

—Dave Barry

Ageism is pervasive in this industry [Hollywood]. It's not a level playing field. You don't often see women in their 60s playing romantic leads with costars who are decades younger. I think about how few wonderful actresses of my generation are still doing viable, important film work. You go to television. You go to the stage. You do whatever you can because you want to keep working.

—Jessica Lange

When men reach their sixties and retire, they go to pieces. Women just go right on cooking.

--Gail Sheehy

Today's young women don't really see inequities until they go out into the real world.

—Eleanor Clift

I feel connected to all kinds of women. I am angry because I think we've been mistreated throughout history in different countries, including America.

—Salma Hayek

I'm one of nine sisters. My parents were dairy farmers in Wisconsin. My father didn't believe in girls doing farm work. Girls did housework, and he hired young men to do farm work. I would have preferred to be outside.

—Diane Hendricks

It was very, very hard in those years, at the end of the war. It was all axe-work in those days, no bulldozers. I used to work with the axe until I couldn't do it any longer. I'd go out every day, even when I was pregnant. Women worked very hard, of course, then. When I look around now and see women who've got every convenience of every kind and think of the way women used to work hard on the farm, I often think what they owe to those women.

--Charlotte Perkins  
Gilman

Farming's a piece of fun for you. It's a life sentence for me.

--Nina Bawden

Farm women have always been wage earners and partners in their husband's businesses, but no one ever noticed.

--Laura Ingalls Wilder

There is no gilding of setting sun or glamour of poetry to light up the ferocious and endless toil of the farmers' wives.

--Hamlin Garland

Women in Africa are really the pillar of the society, are the most productive segment of society, actually. They do agriculture.

—Mo Ibrahim

There is always a different, more kindly look in the eyes of women who live on the land.

—Unknown

Nothing ages a woman like living in the country.

—Sidonie-Gabrielle  
Colette

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

--John Gay

We live in a world where there is such a clear definition of what a girl should be that it takes almost no effort at all to completely hate ourselves.

--Jennifer Elisabeth

Don't let anybody tell you this isn't a woman's world....Only a female bee can sting....Law of life! If you get yellow fever, you'll have the female mosquito to thank. If a black widow spider does you in, my boy, again—*cherchez la femme*....The female praying mantis eats the male as you or I would eat a stalk of celery. The female tarantula pops her little lover into her mouth like a canapé!

—Kurt Vonnegut

My father worried about men in business not treating me with respect. He told me to shake hands firmly and 'hurt 'em.' Let them know you're strong. Then you'll be unforgettable.

—Ann Curry

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

The Most Influential Power Couple in History? Theodora and Justinian I, who ruled the Byzantine empire, built some of Constantinople's greatest landmarks and helped advance women's rights, instituting the death penalty for rape, forbidding the killing of women who had committed adultery, banning forced prostitution, and allowing women more control over their property.

—Stephen Azzi

Until we are all free, we are none of us free.

—Emma Lazarus  
(1849-1887)

Women do about all the reading and play-going that is done in America; at least they are responsible for most of the play-going, since men mostly 'go along' under their influence. They keep up most of our music, they maintain most of our painting and sculpture, they are the mainstay of our churches, our educational, cultural, and social institutions, they are the arbiters of taste and style for both sexes and in all particulars.

--Henry A. Beers

Tragedies that would be recognized by twentieth century women as peculiarly their own: the gut-searing loneliness of the women who have 'careers,' the women who don't marry, the women who do but divorce; the women deprived of material warmth and comfort who are condemned to seek love forever in the barren soil of husbands and children and even animals; Women howling primitively for nourishment, flanked on one side by rejecting mothers and on the other by rejecting lovers.

—Marion Meade

An archaeologist is the best husband any woman can get. Just consider: the older she gets, the more he is interested in her!

—Agatha Christie

I later became more interested in equal rights for women in the work place because of what was happening at IBM. One of the women at Remington Rand had previously been a system service girl for IBM during the war. After a system was installed, a system service girl would go out and show the users how it worked. She was the liaison between the users and the computer company. She was married and had been fired to make room for a returning veteran. When the war ended, IBM rehired all of its former employees who had left to join the military, then fired all of the married women with jobs that could be filled by men.

--Jean Jennings Bartik

Generation after generation of women have pledged to raise their daughters differently, only to find that their daughters grow up and fervently pledge the same thing.

—Elizabeth Debold

Women is fine once you got em pinned down, boss, but when they ain't pinned down they're hell.

—John Dos Passos

The bravest and brainiest girls in literature have been breaking the rules for 150 years: Jo March—*Little Women* (1868); Anne Shirley—*Anne of Green Gables* (1908); Nancy Drew—*Nancy Drew Books* (1930); Laura Ingalls—*Little House on the Prairie* (1932); Ramona Quimby—*Ramona Series* (1955); Scout Finch—*To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960); Meg Murray—*A Wrinkle in Time* (1962); Harriet M. Welsch—*Harriet the Spy* (1964); Claudia Kincaid—*The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* (1967); Margaret Simon—*Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* (1970); Cassie Logan—*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (1976); Esperanza Cordero—*The House on Mango Street* (1984); Claudia Kishi—*The Baby-Sitters Club* (1986); Hermione Granger—*Harry Potter Series* (1997); Toswiah Green—*Hush* (2000); Esperanza Ortega—*Esperanza Rising* (2002); Liesel Meminger—*The Book Thief* (2005); Katniss Everdeen—*The Hunger Games Series* (2008); Hà—*Inside Out and Back Again* (2011); and Star Carter—*The Hate U Give* (2017).

—Natalie Escobar

Like so many things, the Miss America pageant began as a marketing scheme. Held in Atlantic City just after Labor Day, it started in 1921 as a way for newspapers to increase their circulation and for the resort's businesses to extend their profitable summer season. Newspapers across the country held contests judging photographs of young women, and winners came to Atlantic City for a competition where they were evaluated on 'personality and social graces.' There was no equivocating. Women's beauty—white women's beauty—was a tool.

Since its inception, the pageant has evolved in some ways and not so much in others. The talent competition was introduced in 1938 so that perhaps the young women could be judged on more than just their appearance, but with that small bit of progress came regression. That same year, the pageant chose to limit eligibility to single, never-married women between the ages of 18 and 28. The kind of beauty the pageant wanted to reward was very specific and very narrow—that of the demure, slender-but-not-too-thin woman, the girl next door with a bright white smile, a flirtatious but not overly coquettish manner, smart but not too smart, certainly heterosexual. There was even a 'Rule 7,' abandoned in 1940, that stated that Miss America contestants had to be 'of good health and of the white race.' The winner spent the year doing community service, but also peddling sponsors' products and, later, entertaining U.S. Troops.

—Roxane Gay

It would be futile to attempt to fit women into a masculine pattern of attitudes, skills and abilities and disastrous to force them to suppress their specifically female characteristics and abilities by keeping up the pretense that there are no differences between the sexes.

—Arianna Huffington

The real problem here is a massive elephant in the room: our own culture. Our social values, our media—so influential on impressionable young girls—that have been allowed, for millenia, to send out this powerful, alienating message about girls and sport: that sport is unfeminine, that sport makes you sweaty and muscular, that sport is swearing and violence, that sport is ugliness in a world where women's sole priority, value and focus should be beauty and becoming an object of desire.

--Anna Kessel

The preservation of life seems to be rather a slogan than a genuine goal of the anti-abortion forces. What they want is control. Control over behavior. Power over women. Women in the anti-choice movement want to share in male power over women, and do so by denying their own womanhood, their own rights and responsibilities.

—Ursula K. LeGuin

A woman is handicapped by her sex, and handicaps society, either by slavishly copying the pattern of man's advance in the professions, or by refusing to compete with man at all.

—Betty Friedan

A fact of modern life is that it takes women longer to get ready than men.

—Jessica Savitch

Americans generally believe that leaders must necessarily possess attributes such as competitiveness, self-confidence, objectiveness, aggressiveness, and ambitiousness. But these leader attributes, though welcomed in a male, are inconsistent with prescriptive female stereotypes of warmth and communality. In fact, the mere indication that a female leader is successful in her position leads to increased ratings of her selfishness, deceitfulness, and coldness.

—Ekaterina Netchaeva,  
Maryam Kouchaki,  
and Leah  
Sheppard

For women politicians to succeed, they must defeat and outmaneuver men. Yet the better at it they are, the more detested they become.

—Peter Beinart

I would venture to guess that Anon, who wrote so many poems without signing them, was often a woman.

—Virginia Woolf

People do not fully realize that there are terrible consequences when people become things. Self-image is deeply affected. The self-esteem of girls plummets as they reach adolescence partly because they cannot possibly escape the message that their bodies are objects, and imperfect objects at that.

--Jean Kilbourne

Scratch most feminists and underneath there is a woman who longs to be a sex object; the difference is, that that is not all she longs to be.

—Betty Rollin

Before my first coding class, the idea that I could build something with code seemed nearly impossible, but after only a couple of courses, I was working with my classmates to program a small drone. I realized that, just like art and fashion, code is about creativity, and that women who have these skills have the power to shape our future—and often have. Women are essential in forging digital progress and knowing how to code is the key to exploring and creating the newest frontier.

—Karlie Kloss

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Ada Lovelace helped create the ‘analytical engine’ in the 1840s and is considered the world’s first programmer (even though computers didn’t exist!).

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Grace Hopper was a Navy Admiral and helped to write the first programming languages. She popularized the term ‘debugging’ after removing a moth from her computer to fix it.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The ENIAC 6 are the six women tech pioneers who programmed the world’s first entirely digital computer, known as the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer.

In 1985, a trailblazer named Radia Perlman played a major role in developing the Internet with her invention of the Spanning Tree Protocol (STP).

—*www.kodewithklossy.com*

Startups with women leaders are more than 2x likely to be successful.  
57% of bachelor's degrees (but only 18% of computer science degrees) are earned by women.  
85% of all consumer spending online is controlled by women.

—*www.kodewithklossy.com*

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

Six men control almost all the media in the United States—book publishing, magazines, television, movie studios, newspapers, and radio. They are not friendly toward feminism, which has almost disappeared from the surface of our society. You will almost never see a feminist column on an op-ed page, a feminist article in a magazine, or newspaper, actual (not satirized) feminist ideas on television or in the movies. Only magazines & radio controlled by feminists--and these are few and not well-funded--offer information on the feminist perspective.

This might be understandable if feminism were a wild-eyed manic philosophy. But it is a belief, a politics, based on one simple fact: women are human beings who matter as much as men. That is all that feminism claims. As human beings, women have the right to control their own bodies, to walk freely in the world, to train their minds and bodies, and to love and hate at will. Only those who wish to continue to coerce women into a servant/slave class for men cannot accept this principle.

--Marilyn French

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

The man of the house can destroy the pleasure of the household, but he cannot make it. That rests with the woman, and it is her greatest privilege.

—Arthur Helps

Men always get to set the terms...they just come in and set them. They don't ask, they just do it...I don't want to keep repeating this forever. I don't want to keep having to live in the buildings they make.

—Meg Wolitzer

On the exquisiteness of the Japanese woman, this flower-like creature—I have also remained reticent; for here the common mortal must cede the word to the poet.

—Albert Einstein

In early 1970, *Newsweek's* editors decided that the new women's liberation movement deserved a cover story. There was one problem, however: there were no women to write the piece.

--Lynn Povich

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

Some men think women want money, cars and gifts. But the right woman wants a man's time, effort, passion, honesty, loyalty, smile, and him choosing to put her as his priority.

—Charles Orlando

Any number of powerful consorts, witches, reformers and suffragists populate the history of women in the United States, but it took a handful of ballplayers to give them real muscle. The *All-American Girls Professional Baseball League*—founded 75 years ago, on May 30, during the manpower shortage of World War II by Chicago Cubs owner Philip Wrigley—allowed women like [Betsy] Jochum a brief, 11-year window in which to radically extend the acceptable range of female behavior. The 5-foot-7 office girl with a quick bat, a long stride and a radiant smile, 'Sockum' Jochum became the star slugger for the *South Bend Blue Sox* and hit .296 to win the 1944 batting crown in the now legendary league. But then it all stopped. The league disbanded, the demure 1950s took hold, and Jochum was a forgotten Indiana schoolteacher until the story of the *Rockford Peaches*, *Racine Belles* and all the rest was memorialized by director Penny Marshall in the popular 1992 film *A League of Their Own*.

—Sally Jenkins

I tried to remember any case in the course of my reading where two women are represented as friends...But almost without exception they are shown in their relation to men. It was strange to think that all the great women of fiction were, until Jane Austen's day, not only seen by the other sex, but seen only in relation to the other sex.

—Virginia Woolf (1929)

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

--Friedrich Wilhelm  
Nietzsche

Well-behaved women rarely make history.

—Laurel Thatcher  
Ulrich

In America every woman has her set of girl-friends some are cousins, the rest are gained at school. These form a permanent committee who sit on each other's affairs, who 'come out' together, marry and divorce together, and who end as those groups of bustling, heartless well-informed club-women who govern society. Against them the Couple of Ehepaar is helpless and Man in their eyes but a biological interlude.

—Charles Caleb Colton

The man in the traditional kimono is having difficulty with the breasts. The weight of the belly strains his back. Simply walking around the room—a party room in a Tokyo condo building—is more like lumbering. Lying down and getting up again is a struggle. The rest of the men in the *ikumens* class laugh as he tries to adjust to the new reality. But then we all have to try on the pregnancy suit ourselves, and one by one, we come to the same conclusion: It's hard to be a woman....An organization called *Fathering Japan* was started in 2006, for example, to help fathers be more involved; it provides courses, and a sense of community. Yet men who forgo work to care for their kids remain outliers.

—Stephen Marche

In more than a decade as a trial lawyer, I've watched in frustration as male attorneys rely on a range of courtroom tactics that are off-limits to women. Judges and juries reward men for being domineering—and expect women to be deferential. This cultural bias runs deep and won't be easily overcome. I have the trial transcripts to prove it.

—Lara Bazelon

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

I was ashamed, confused, afraid.  
I knew no one would believe me.  
I knew no one would help me.  
I knew I'd lose my friends.  
I didn't know what to say.  
I didn't know who to tell.  
It would've ruined my reputation.  
It would have hurt his family.  
I thought it was my fault.  
I thought I was tough enough to deal with it alone.  
He was my pastor.  
He was my stepfather.  
He was my boss/my teacher/my brother/my co-worker/a cop/my dad's best friend.  
He was my husband.  
He said he'd kill me.

—Mary Schmich

No one ever taught me what sexual assault was so when it happened to me I didn't even know.

#WhyIDidntReport

Only 310 of every 1,000 rapes are reported to police. Of those reported, only 57 lead to an arrest. Only six perpetrators end up incarcerated.

—*Rape, Abuse & Incest  
National Network*

Learning to be a lady  
is like learning  
to live within a shell,  
to be a crustacean encased  
in a small white  
uncomfortable world.

—Stephanie Hemphill

The abuse of women and girls is the most pervasive and unaddressed human rights violation on earth.

—Jimmy Carter Many

women are singing together of this:  
one is in a shoe factory cursing the machine,  
one is at the aquarium tending a seal,  
one is dull at the wheel of her Ford,  
one is at the toll gate collecting,  
one is tying the cord of a calf in Arizona,  
one is straddling a cello in Russia,  
one is shifting pots on the stove in Egypt,  
one is painting her bedroom walls moon color,  
one is dying but remembering a breakfast,  
one is stretching on her mat in Thailand,  
one is wiping the ass of her child,  
one is staring out the window of a train  
in the middle of Wyoming and one is  
anywhere and some are everywhere and all  
seem to be singing, although some can not  
sing a note.

—Anne Sexton

A dear friend shared this week that she was repeatedly molested as a kid. She's fine now, she said. The only reason she hadn't spoken up publicly was because her father still didn't know; it would devastate him. She saw the irony in this—that even in her own recovery, she had been concerned with shielding a man from agony. 'But Lord, my dad's done an awful lot for me,' she wrote. 'And I can and will do this for him.'

—Monica Hesse

If women were particular about men's characters, they would never get married at all.

—George Bernard Shaw

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

It is the inextricable masculinity in our idea of government which so revolts at the idea of women as voters. 'To govern;' that means to boss, to control, to have authority; and that only, to most minds. They cannot bear to think of the woman as having control over even their own affairs; to control is masculine, they assume. Seeing only self-interest as a natural impulse, and the ruling powers of the state as a sort of umpire, an authority to preserve the rules of the game while men fight it out forever; they see in a democracy merely a wider range of self interest, a wider, freer field to fight in.

—Charlotte Perkins  
Gilman

As long as there have been women there have been ways to punish them for being women.

—Elana K. Arnold

Let's teach our daughters it's not about being beautiful. Teach them to be bold. Be silly. Be strong. Be confident. Be independent and intelligent. Be brave and be fierce. Be real, in a world full of fake. LET'S REDEFINE BEAUTY.

—@WholeSelfHealth / FB

Married women predominantly voted Republican....Even once-married women—widows and women who are separated—were more likely to vote Republican....proximity to white men incentivizes white women to shore up white male power wherever possible, and endorse policies and parties that protect the economic and political status of the men on whom they depend.

—Laura Kipnis

Eighty-six percent of women in the U.S. have children....The majority of mothers also have jobs, which means that vast numbers of women of all races and classes are grappling with the same old problem: child care....and let's not prettify things. Maternity can be impoverishing—the result of yet more social decisions. Female-headed households were overrepresented in families living below the poverty line, and black mothers are far more likely to be in this group than white mothers are. (By contrast, in France, to take one much-cited example, publicly funded nurseries and preschool are regarded as a social right; 95 percent of children attend the latter, and the percentage of GDP spending on children is more than twice what it is in the United States.)

—Laura Kipnis

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

From George Eliot to Colette, who wrote best-selling novels under her husband's name, women throughout history have assumed male pseudonyms in order to get published.

—Rachel Donadio

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

The lives of most women are so vaguely unsatisfactory. They are always doing secondary and menial things (that do not require all their gifts and ability) for others and never anything for themselves. Society and husbands praise them for it (when they get too miserable or have nervous breakdowns) though always a little perplexedly and half-heartedly and just to be consoling. The poor wives are reminded that that is just why wives are so splendid—because they are so unselfish and self-sacrificing and that is the wonderful thing about them! But inwardly women know that something is wrong. They sense that if you are always doing something for others, like a servant or nurse, and never anything for yourself, you cannot do others any good. You make them physically more comfortable. But you cannot affect them spiritually in any way at all. For to teach, encourage, cheer up, console, amuse, stimulate or advise a husband or children or friends, you have to be something yourself.

—Brenda Ueland

I didn't plan on either children or writing. Once I realized that writing satisfied me in some enormous way, I had to make adjustments. The writing was always marginal in terms of time when the children were small. But it was major in terms of my head. I always thought that women could do a lot of things. All the women I knew did nine or ten things at one time. I always understood that women worked, they went to church, they managed their houses, they managed somebody else's houses, they raised their children, they raised somebody else's children, they taught. I wouldn't say it's not hard, but why wouldn't it be? All important things are hard.

—Toni Morrison

It's vital to remember that for most of human history, leaders and their male subjects forged a social contract: 'Men agreed to be ruled by other men in return for all men ruling over women.' This political hierarchy appeared natural—as natural as adults ruling children—because it mirrored the hierarchy of the home. Thus, for millennia, men, and many women, have associated male dominance with political legitimacy.

—Valerie M. Hudson

Outside Trump rallies, vendors sold T-shirts showing Trump as a bare-chested boxer towering over a suggestively posed Clinton. TRUMP 2016. FINALLY SOMEONE WITH BALLS read one pin. Declared another: DON'T BE A PUSSY. VOTE FOR TRUMP IN 2016. Inside the rallies, crowds chanted 'Lock her up,' a taunt never directed at Trumps' male primary rivals. Again and again, Trump responded to women who challenged him politically—Fox News's Megyn Kelly, his rival presidential candidate Carly Fiorina, MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski, Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren—by calling them ugly. After his second debate with Clinton, he observed that she had 'walked in front of me,' and 'believe me, I wasn't impressed.' The implication was clear: No matter how high a woman ascends, she's ultimately just a body whose value is determined by men.

—Peter Beinart

Flapper signifies...pretty, impudent, superbly assured, as worldly wise, briefly clad, and 'hard-berled' as possible.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

We are trying to put ourselves in our graves early through fatigue, and a lot of it is because I don't think women are very compassionate toward themselves. It's really dangerous.

—Min Jin Lee

## **[WOMEN] MOST OFTEN CITED IN EDUCATION STANDARDS**

Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, Abigail Adams, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Jane Addams, Norma McCorvey, a.k.a. Jane Roe, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Eleanor Roosevelt, Sacajawea.

—April White

When Americans first voted in 1788, only property holders had the right to cast ballots. The rationale was that only white male landowners could be completely independent. But by 1968, when Shirley Chisholm first ran for Congress, many Americans were looking for an alternative to 'The Man'—the white male leader who drew much of his support from special interest groups. Although Chisholm was initially

shunned by the Democratic establishment, she became the first black woman elected to Congress, where she represented New York's 12th District for seven terms. She ran for president in 1972 under the slogan 'Unbought and Unbossed'—a compelling statement of independence from a woman whose ancestors had existed outside American power structures for hundreds of years.

—*smithsonian.com*

When Grace Hopper enlisted in the U. S. Navy in 1943, she had to get an exemption: The 34-year-old math professor was above the Navy's maximum age and under its minimum weight. She became a pioneering programmer, joining the team that developed the Mark I computer. After the war, she recommended that computer programs be written in English, a radical change that opened the field to non-mathematicians for the first time. As Hopper reasoned, it's much easier for most people to write an English statement than it is to use symbols. Hopper had a knack for explaining computing in ways laypeople could understand. During the 1980s, she became known for handing out foot-long pieces of wire to show how far electricity could travel in one-billionth of a second.

—*smithsonian.com*

Willie Mae 'Big Mama' Thornton was 25 years old when the 19-year-old songwriters Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller wrote her first and only hit, tailoring it to her voice. 'We wanted her to growl it,' Stoller later told *Rolling Stone*. Growl it she did—and the record sold more than half a million copies, helping usher in the dawn of rock'n' roll. A few years later, 21-year-old Elvis Presley recorded his own version, which Lieber initially found annoying. 'I have no idea what that rabbit business is all about,' he wrote. 'The song is not about a dog; it's about a man, a freeloading gigolo.' But Presley's recording went on to sell ten million copies. To this day, few Elvis fans realize that 'Hound Dog' started life as an anthem of black female power.

—*smithsonian.com*

When Nannie Helen Burroughs opened a school for young African-American women in 1909, its motto was 'We specialize in the wholly impossible.' Burroughs initially managed to fund the school entirely from within the black community, largely through small donations from other women. The school was unlike any other at the time: It offered vocational training alongside high school and junior college academics. Graduates entered the work force with the skills to become domestic workers or bookkeepers, but they also had a financial savvy and independence their mothers had never had. Burroughs also insisted that students learn African-American history. As she declared in a 1934 speech: 'I want you to take the struggles, the hardships, and the handicaps of this civilization and turn them into stepping-stones.'

—*smithsonian.com*

With her time of 14 hours and 31 minutes, [Gertrude] Ederle (who died in 2003) not only became the first woman to cross the 21-mile [English] channel but obliterated the men's record by two hours. The *New York Herald Tribune* sports editor W. O. McGeehan wrote, 'Let the men athletes be good sportsman and admit that the test of the channel swim is the sternest of all tests of human endurance and strength. Gertrude Ederle has made the achievements of the five men swimmers took puny.' It was, and remains, a monumental accomplishment. As Ederle's biographer Glenn Stout noted in 2009, 'Far fewer human beings have swum the English Channel than have climbed Mount Everest.' Her record was not broken until 1950—by Florence Chadwick, another American woman, who swam the Channel in 13 hours and 20 minutes. And yet, as [Diana] Nyad says, 'We still after all these years look at women, like, 'Gosh maybe it'll hurt 'em.'

—Sally Jenkins

Who was the first woman depicted on currency? The honor belongs to Arsinoe II, a Ptolemaic queen of Egypt, who appeared on a coin in the third century B.C., says Ellen Feingold, curator of the *National Numismatic Collection*. Others have included Queen Elizabeth I of England in the 16th century, Indira Gandhi in the 1980s, Maria Montessori in the 1990s and Eva Perón and Marie Curie in this decade. Women have been far less commonly depicted on U.S. currency. The full roster: Pocahontas and Martha Washington appear on bills in the 19th century; Susan B. Anthony and Sacagawea appeared on dollar coins beginning in 1979 and 2000, respectively, and Helen Keller appeared on a quarter issued in 2003.

—Anna Diamond

A decade ago, no country in the world treated men and women equally under the law, according to a gender equality index from the World Bank. Today, only six countries do—and the United States isn't one of them.

A new index released this week by the World Bank analyzes how each country's laws affect women at every stage in their working lives—from applying for a job to having a child to receiving a pension—and the extent to which legal gender equality has progressed over time....By the index's measures, six countries now have laws that protect men and women equally: Belgium, Denmark, France, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Sweden.

The United State, meanwhile, is far from the leading pack....The United Stated tied with Malawi, Kenya and The Bahamas. More than 60 other countries had better scores.

—Samantha Schmidt  
(2019)

[I]f we revert to history, we shall find that the women who have distinguished themselves have neither been the most beautiful nor the most gentle of their sex.

—Mary Wollstonecraft

The female brain itself is a highly intuitive emotion-processing machine, which when put to practice in the progress of society, would do much more than any man can with all his analytical perspectives.

—Abhijit Naskar

20 things that women should stop wearing after the age of 30: 1-20: The weight of other people's expectations and judgments.

—Maura Quint

Teenage girls are not taken seriously by the culture at large, especially not their darker or more complicated feelings—of aggression, desire, ambition. To me, these feelings and drives are so fundamental to girlhood and to womanhood, and I love exploring them. And trying to give voice to them as best I can. I think women are always trying to figure out their own adolescence. We never stop.

—Megan Abbott

As sexual power is learned by adolescent boys through the social experience of their sex drive, so do girls learn that the locus of sexual power is male. Given the importance placed on the male sex drive in the socialization of girls as well as boys, early adolescence is probably the first significant phase of male identification in a girl's life and development. ... As a young girl becomes aware of her own increasing sexual feelings ... she turns away from her heretofore primary relationships with girlfriends. As they become secondary to her, recede in importance in her life, her own identity also assumes a secondary role and she grows into male identification.

—Kathleen L. Barry

Meena was a woman I met at a health facility we'd helped fund [in northern India]. She'd recently given birth, and we had a warm conversation, mother-to-mother, about bonding with a new baby. But when I asked if she planned to have more children, she said, 'The truth is, no. I don't know how I'm going to feed this child. I don't have any hope of educating him. The only hope I have for this child's future is for you to take him home with you.' The conversation crushed me. I had to tell her, 'I'm so sorry. I can't.' I started digging and learned that more than 200 million women in developing countries wanted access to contraceptives but didn't have it.

—Melinda Gates

When I was a teen, I liked to hang out around popular girls, I thought they had some magic, secrets that only they knew and I wanted to learn it... Though pretty soon I realized... popular girls were just like spam... they promised a lot, but only thing they had and could use were their well-built bodies and ability to apply make-up here and there. Mostly they were deceptive and had no senses... they had no idea about friendship, kindness and beauty as it is. Friendship for them was not something more than poor relations, sort of like in God Father. Love for them was not something bigger than sex. Kindness for them was to have a kitty or a dog (which was already very rare case)... And beauty for them was... well, you can imagine. Concentrated selfishness.

—Galina Nelson

Never ask a woman who is eating ice cream straight from the carton how she's doing.

—Internet Meme

Women dress for women, if we dressed for men, we'd all be running around naked.

—Jillian Dodd

Insecurities make girls believe they don't have voices and they can't say what they need to say. The more they know the importance of their voices and gain confidence, the better chances of greatness the world will have.

—Paballo Seipei

We may say that all ages are dangerous to all people, in this dangerous life we live. But the thirties are a specially dangerous time for women. They have outlived the shyness and restraints of girlhood, and not attained to the caution and discretion of middle age. They are reckless, and consciously or unconsciously on the lookout for adventure. They see ahead of them the end of youth, and that quickens their pace.

—Rose Macaulay

I have a friend who likes to date younger women because their stories are shorter.

—Jerry Uelsmann

The three of them were beautiful, in the way all girls of that age are beautiful. It can't be helped, that sort of beauty, nor can it be conserved; it's a freshness, a plumpness of the cells, that's unearned and temporary, and that nothing can replicate. None of them was satisfied with it, however; already they were making attempts to alter themselves into some impossible, imaginary mould, plucking and pencilling away at their faces.

—Margaret Atwood

Character contributes to beauty. It fortifies a woman as her youth fades. A mode of conduct, a standard of courage, discipline, fortitude and integrity can do a great deal to make a woman beautiful.

--Jacqueline Bisset

Women usually introduce new constructions into a language. Before long, research shows, men tend to catch on.

—John McWhorter

After escaping slavery via the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman risked re-enslavement and death by returning to the South in at least 19 trips, to guide as many as 300 enslaved African Americans to freedom. She also guided African-American Union soldiers during the Combahee Ferry Raid, which freed more than 700 enslaved people.

—Maida Follini

Anita Hill's Senate testimony [was an act of courage.] Her ordeal led to the 1992 Year of the Woman. Her courage inspired Christine Blasey Ford and the women of the #MeToo moment to speak truth to power.

—Lucia Perri

[Courage was] Malala Yousafzai's standing up of the education rights of girls and women around the world after an assassination attempt and continued threats.

—Sterling S. Haukom  
Anderson

Women were in computing from its earliest days. Indeed, they were considered essential back when 'computers' weren't even yet machines. Just before the digital age emerged, computers were humans, sitting at tables and doing math laboriously by hand. Yet they powered everything from astronomy to war and the race into space. And for a time, a large portion of them were women.

—Clive Thompson

In World War II, the need for computation exploded. Over 200 women were hired at the University of Pennsylvania's Moore School of Electrical Engineering, creating artillery-trajectory tables for the Army. By 1944...about half of all computers were women. One contractor of the Applied Mathematics Panel used the term 'kilogirl' to refer to 1,000 hours of female calculation work. Another astronomer spoke of 'girl-years' of work.

—Clive Thompson

Women...were among the original coders of...digital brains, because in the early days programming...was seen as dull work. The earliest programmers for the Eniac—the military-funded first programmable general-purpose computer—were entirely women, plucked from the ranks of the Army’s human computers. And though they wound up inventing brilliant coding techniques, they received none of the glory: When the Army showed off the Eniac to the press, running lighting-fast ballistics-crunching algorithms, it didn’t introduce the women who’d written the code.

—Clive Thompson

People believed that the most devastating part of a war are the corpses with their guts out in the open, the puddles of blood, and all that you can capture at first glance. But sometimes the horror is off to the side, in the lost look on the face of a woman who’s just been raped, as she limps away alone within the ruins, trying to keep her head down.

—Susana Fortes

A woman could never be alone in peace; a solitary woman was a walking invitation to all sorts of impudence.

—Sylvia Plath

The decision of whether or not to bear a child is central to a woman’s life, well-being and dignity. When the government makes that decision for her, she is being treated as less than a full adult human responsible for her own choices.

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Women urged to carry keys between fingers. Women urged to cover their drinks at all times. Women urged to not get drunk around men. Women urged to not walk alone at night. Women urged to carry pepper spray. CAN WE PLEASE URGE MEN TO NOT SEXUALLY ASSAULT WOMEN?

—Internet Meme

A woman walking alone after midnight is always too conscious of being alone to properly inhabit that space which is solitude.

—Kamila Shamsie