



QUOTABLE QUOTABLE WOMAN

WORDS OF WISDOM

FROM

MOTHER TERESA,

KATHERINE HEPBURN,

EDITH WHARTON,

DPRAH WINFREY,

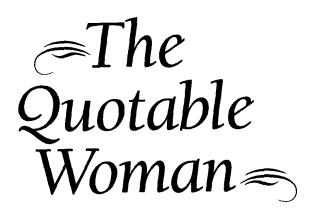
VIRGINIA WOOLF,

AND MORE









Words of Wisdom from Mother Teresa, Edith Wharton, Virginia Woolf, Eleanor Roosevelt, Katharine Hepburn, and More

CAROL A. TURKINGTON

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A little while when I am gone My life will live in music after me, As spun foam lifted and borne on After the wave is lost in the full sea.

—SARA TEASDALE

For Constance Dalmas Ruch (1911–2000), for showing me the way



If neither governesses or mothers know, how can they teach? So long as education is not provided for them, how can it be provided by them?

SARAH EMILY DAVIES (1860–1908), Thoughts on Some Questions Relating to Women

Throughout the centuries, women have always had something to say—even when no one was listening. But if women are to pass on the knowledge we've learned from our mothers, and our mothers' mothers, we must be able to hear their observations and their passions in their own words. Otherwise, how can we truly pass on their thoughts to those women who come after us? If we are not taught their wisdom, how can we pass on the legacy of their experience?

All too often, volumes of quotable quotes have focused on men. From statesmen to shamans, philosophers to politicians, all have been able to record their point of view. Women's wisdom is no less profound for being so often ignored. This is why I wanted to write *The Quotable Woman*.

Whether you're a speechwriter looking for that perfect quote, a teacher hoping to inspire your students, or a trivia buff locked in a dispute over who said what, *The Quotable Woman* brings together a collection of viewpoints and observations from some of the most fascinating and diverse women of all time. I've tried hard to include not just the wealthy and the well-educated European white women of the twentieth century, but haunting observations by women from all walks of life, from many different lands and many centuries—Maya Angelou to Mae West, Sojourner Truth to Simone de Beauvoir, Elizabeth I to Lady Murasaki.

The book is organized into dozens of thematic sections such as "Anger," "Children," "Education," "Love," and "Politics," to make it

easy to find just the quote you're looking for on any particular topic. (If you're looking for quotes from a particular woman, you can turn to the index.)

Why a quote book? As I. E. Landon says in Romance and Reality (1831), "An apt quotation is like a lamp which flings its light over the whole sentence." Whether you're looking for a witty anecdote or taking solace in the wisdom of a kindred spirit, odds are you'll find it in the illuminating words of wise women such as Willa Cather, Golda Meir, Millicent Fenwick, Madeleine L'Engle, or Nadia Boulanger.

Any why? Because a good quotation or an illuminating idea can change your feelings, your outlook, and even your concept of life itself. As Emily Brontë wrote in *Wuthering Heights* (1847): "I've dreamt in my life dreams that have stayed with me ever after, and changed my ideas: they've gone through and through me, like wine through water, and altered the colour of my mind."

Carol Turkington

Contents

Absence 1	
Activism 2	
Adolescence 2	
Adulthood 3	
Adventure 4	
Adversity 4	
Advertising 5	
Advice 6	
Aerobics 7	
Affairs 7	
Affection 8	
Age 9	
Alcohol 11	
Alone 12	
Alzheimer's Disease	13
Ancestors 13	
Angels 13	
Anger 13	
Anguish 14	
Animals 14	
Anniversaries 15	
Anxiety 15	
Apathy 16	

Appearance 16
Applause 17
Art 18
Artists 18
Atheism 19
Aunts 20
Autocrats 20
Babies 20
Bachelors 21
Baseball 22
Beauty 22
Bed 23
Betrayal 24
Biology 24
Birds 24
Birth Control 25
Bisexuality 26
Blacks 27
Blame 28
Books 28
Boredom 29
Breaking Up 29
Canada 29
Cats 30
Censorship 30 Change 31
Change 31
Charisma 32
Charity 32
Childbirth 33
Childhood 33
Children 34
Christianity 35
Christmas 36

Church 37 Class 38 Clothes 38 Co-dependence 39 Coffee 40 Committees 40 Competition 41 Computers 41 Confidence 41 Conformity 42 Contentment 42 Controversy 42 Conversation 43 Cooking 43 Corporate Life 44 Courage 44 Creativity 46 Culture 46 Cynicism 47 Dancing 47 Dating 47 Daughters 49 Death 49 Delicacy 51 Depression 52 Desire 52 53 Dessert Diet 53 Dieting 53 Differences 53 Divorce 54 Dogs 55

Dreams

56

Drinking 50	
Drugs 56	
Eating 57	
Education 58	
Ego 59	
Elegance 59	
Emotions 59	
End of Love 60	
Endurance 61	
Enemies 61	
Entertaining 61	
Equality 62	
Establishment 62	
Estrangement 63	
Excellence 63	
Existence 63	
Experience 64	
Failure 64	
Faithfulness 65	
Fame 65	
Family 66	
Famous Women on Love	67
Farewell 69	
Fashion 69	
Fathers 70	
Fear 71	
Feelings 71	
Feminism 72	
Fiction 72	
First Love 73	
Flattery 74	
Food 74	
Forgiveness 76	

Freedom 76 Free Love 77 Friends 77 Gardening 78 Generation Gap 79 Genius 79 God 79 Good Versus Evil 80 Gossip 80 Government 81 Grandparents 81 Grief 82 Growing Up 82 Hair 83 Happiness 83 Hate 84 Health Care 84 Heart 85 Heartbreak 86 Heart Versus Head 87 History 88 Home 88 Homosexuality 89 Horses 90 Housework 90 Human Race 91 Husband 91 Illness 92 Immortality 92 Indecision 93 Independence 93 Individuality 94 Infidelity 94

```
Integrity 95
     Intelligence 95
       Ireland
               96
      Jealousy 96
     Journalism 97
         Joy 97
        Kisses 98
        Latins
               98
         Law 98
      Leadership
                 99
      Lesbians 100
        Lies 100
        Life 100
        Lists 102
      Literature 103
      Loneliness 103
      Longing 104
        Love 104
  Love at First Sight
     Love Letters 110
       Lovers 111
   Love Versus Hate 111
   Love Versus Like
                   112
       Loving 113
      Manners 113
      Marriage 114
     Mature Love 116
May-December Romance
                       117
      Memories 117
   Memories of Love 118
        Men 118
               120
       Misery
      Mistakes 120
```

Money 120 Morality 121 Morals 121 Mothers 121 Mothers and Sons 124 Mothers-Daughters 124 Mothers, Death of 125 Mothers-in-Law 126 Movies 126 Music 126 Natural Law 127 Nature 127 New York 127 Novels 128 Nursing 128 Obstacles 128 Open-Mindedness 129 129 Opera Pain 129 Palimony 130 Parenting 130 Parting 131 Passion 132 132 Past Peace 133 Perseverance 133 Personal Ads 133 Philosophy 133 Poetry 134 Politicians 134 Politics 134 Pollution 135 Pornography 136

Poverty 136
Praise 136
Prayer 137
Pregnancy 137
Prejudice 138
Pride 138
Privacy 139
Problems 139
Promiscuity 140
Psychotherapy 140
Questions 140
Quitting 141
Quotations 141
Racism 141
Rape 142
Reading 142
Reality 143
Regret 144
Relationships 144
Religion 145
Responsibility 147
Retirement 147
Rights 147
Risk 148
Romance 149
Roots 150
Royalty 150
Rudeness 151
Rumor 151
Saints 151
Scandal 152
Sea 152
Second-Rest 152

Secrets 153 Self-Esteem 153 Self-Importance 154 Sex 154 Sex Education 156 Sex Objects 156 Sexuality 156 157 Shadows Siblings 157 Silence 158 Simplicity 158 Sin 159 Sisters 159 Sleep 161 161 Smile Social Change 161 Solitude 162 Sorrow 162 The South 163 Spirituality 163 Sports 164 164 Spring Stars 165 Stock Market 165 Stories 165 165 Stupidity Style 166 166 Success Suffering 167 Suicide 168 168 Summer Sunrise 168 Sunset 168

```
Support
                169
      Survival
                169
        Tact
              169
       Talent
               170
        Taxes
             170
         Tea
              171
      Teaching
                171
      Teenagers
                171
      Television
                172
       Theater
                173
 Theodore Roosevelt
                     173
Thoughts and Thinking
                       174
        Time
              174
       Tourists 175
       Travel
              175
        Trees
              176
       Trouble 177
        Trust
              177
       Truth
              178
   Understanding
                   179
    United States
                  179
   Unrequited Love
                   181
   Unwed Mothers
                   181
       Vanity 181
        Vice 182
       Victory
               182
      Virginity 182
        War 182
  Washington, D.C.
                    183
              184
       Wealth
     Weddings 184
       Weight
               185
       Whites
               185
```

Wildlife 186 Wine 186 Winning 187 Winter 187 Wives 187 Women 188 Women and Education 190 Women's Rights 190 Women Versus Men Wonder 195 Words 195 Work 196 Working Women 196 World 198 Worry 198 Writers 198 Writing 199 Youth 200

Index 201