


**"If you can use a few good laughs today,
try these quotes!"**

Dear Abby

THE OTHER 637

**BEST THINGS
ANYBODY EVER SAID**

Chosen and arranged by
Robert Byrne



**Compiler of
the previous
collection with
the similar
name**

Here are just some of
THE OTHER 637 BEST THINGS
ANYBODY EVER SAID

"I have read your book and much like it."
Moses Hadas

**"If you can't annoy somebody, there is
little point in writing."**
Kingsley Amis

"The covers of this book are too far apart."
Ambrose Bierce

**"A person who publishes a book appears
willfully in public with his pants down."**
Edna St. Vincent Millay

"Good swiping is an art in itself."
Jules Feiffer

Also by Robert Byrne
Published by Fawcett Books:

The 637 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

***Cat Scan—All the Best from the Literature
of Cats (with Teressa Skelton)***

***The Third and Possibly the Best
637 Things Anyone Ever Said***

***The Fourth—And By Far the Most
Recent—637 Best Things Anybody
Ever Said****

***Forthcoming**

**THE
OTHER
637**

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ANYBODY EVER SAID**

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To
Tom Stewart,
who has kept so much egg off my face

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PART ONE

**Theology, Self-love, Self-abuse, Love, Sex,
Wedlock, Kids, Drink, Death, Comedy, Men and
Women, War, Money, Work, and a great deal more**

PART TWO

**Advice, Health, Food, Life Itself, America,
Psychoses, Books, Writers, Music, Show Business,
Animals, Doctors, Presidents, Politics, Sports, and
much else**

PART THREE

Miscellaneous

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INTRODUCTION



My first collection of mostly humorous quotations was published in 1982 and was titled *The 637 Best Things Anybody Ever Said*, which might make you think that the sequel deals with the second best. Not true. These—the quotes in the book you are now holding—are in fact the 637 best things anybody ever said. In titling the first collection, I lied.

Most books of this sort are too full of chaff. For every quote you can use in conversation without being thrown down the stairs as an intolerable bore there are pages of the pompous, the banal, and the so what? The aim here is to present nothing but kernels of wheat. Open the book anywhere; if you don't find a gem that makes you smile at least inwardly, you should ask your doctor if you are clinically dead.

Quotes are generally grouped by subject. Subjects follow each other sometimes at random and sometimes in a way to encourage reading pages consecutively, never according to the alphabet. In Part One, it struck me as logical to arrange Love, Sex, Wedlock, Kids, Drink, Death, and Comedy in that order.

It has often been noted by researchers into pith that the wages of the world are funniest when they are cynical rather than sentimental. That, and not any presumed sourness on my part, explains the preponderance of negative remarks. The number of anti-marriage quotes, for ex-

ample, doesn't necessarily mean that I personally am against it. In truth, I like marriage, though I happen to be free of it at the moment.

Many thanks to the readers of *The 637 Best Things Anybody Ever Said*, which last I heard was still in print in both hardcover and paperback, who sent me their favorite lines. Their specific contributions are acknowledged in the Sources, References, and Notes.

A word about ascriptions. "Unknown" is used when I have been unable to discover the source. Readers may be better informed. "Anonymous" is used when I am convinced that the source not only is unknown but is going to stay unknown.

Birth and death dates are given only for historical figures.

The significance of the number 637 and other odds and ends are discussed in the Introduction to the earlier volume.

Robert Byrne
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PART ONE



Theology

Self-love

Self-abuse

Love

Sex

Wedlock

Kids

Drink

Death

Comedy

Men and Women

War

Money

Work

and a great deal more

1

My theology, briefly, is that the universe was dictated but not signed. *Christopher Morley (1890–1957)*

2

God made everything out of nothing, but the nothingness shows through. *Paul Valéry (1871–1945)*

3

**God was satisfied with his own work, and that is fatal.
*Samuel Butler (1835–1902)***

4

God is not dead but alive and well and working on a much less ambitious project. *Graffito*

5

**Why attack God? He may be as miserable as we are.
*Erik Satie (1866–1925)***

6

Every day people are straying away from the church and going back to God. *Lenny Bruce (1923-1966)*

7

Religion is what keeps the poor from murdering the rich. *Napoleon (1769-1821)*

8

What if there had been room at the inn?

***Linda Festa on the
origins of Christianity***

9

Christ died for our sins. Dare we make his martyrdom meaningless by not committing them? *Jules Feiffer*

10

Catholicism has changed tremendously in recent years. Now when Communion is served there is also a salad bar. *Bill Marr*

1 1

Faith is believing what you know ain't so.

***"A schoolboy" quoted by
Mark Twain (1835-1910)***

1 2

Faith is under the left nipple.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

1 3

Because I'm Jewish, a lot of people ask why I killed Christ. What can I say? It was an accident. It was one of those parties that got out of hand. I killed him because he wouldn't become a doctor.

Lenny Bruce (1923-1966)

1 4

Your chances of getting hit by lightning go up if you stand under a tree, shake your fist at the sky, and say, "Storms suck!" *Johnny Carson*

1 5

Trust in Allah, but tie your camel. *Arabian proverb*



16

The last time I saw him he was walking down Lover's Lane holding his own hand. *Fred Allen (1894-1956)*



17

The nice thing about egotists is that they don't talk about other people. *Lucille S. Harper*

18

It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.

Miss Manners (Judith Martin)

19

In an age when the fashion is to be in love with yourself, confessing to be in love with somebody else is an admission of unfaithfulness to one's beloved.

Russell Baker