

# Quotations about Marriage

In every marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find, and continue to find, the grounds for marriage. – Robert Anderson

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

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What counts in making a happy marriage is not so much how compatible you are, but how you deal with incompatibility. – Leo Tolstoy

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I didn't marry you because you were perfect. I didn't even marry you because I loved you. I married you because you gave me a promise. That promise made up for your faults. And the promise I gave you made up for mine. Two imperfect people got married and it was the promise that made the marriage. And when our children were growing up, it wasn't a house that protected them; and it wasn't our love that protected them – it was that promise. – Thornton Wilder, The Skin of Our Teeth

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One advantage of marriage, it seems to me, is that when you fall out of love with each other, it keeps you together until maybe you fall in again. – Judith Viorst

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Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing. – Albert Schweitzer

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Commitment has kind eyes. He wears sturdy shoes. Everything is vivid when he is around. It is wonderful to sit and have lunch in his gardens around harvest time. You can taste in the vegetables that the soil has been cared for. – J. Ruth Gendler

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If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, it's because they take better care of it. – Anonymous

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I like not only to be loved, but to be told that I am loved; the realm of silence is large enough beyond the grave. – George Eliot

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Love the family! Defend and promote it as the basic cell of human society; nurture it as the prime sanctuary of life. Give great care to the preparation of engaged couples and be close to young married couples, so that they will be for their children and the whole community an eloquent testimony of God's love. – Pope John Paul II

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If we are serious about renewing fatherhood, we must be serious about renewing marriage. ... Healthy marriages are not always possible. But we must remember, they are incredibly important for children. Our hearts know this and our nation must recognize this. None of us is perfect. And so no marriage and no family is perfect. After all, we all are human. Yet, we need fathers and families precisely because we are human. We all live, it is said, in the shelter of one another. And our urgent hope is one of the oldest hopes of humanity, to turn the hearts of children toward their parents, and the hearts of parents toward their young. – President George W. Bush

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It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the

marriage that sustains your love. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writing to a young bride and groom from his prison cell in Nazi Germany in 1943

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I am convinced that if we as a society work diligently in every other area of life and neglect the family, it would be analogous to straightening deck chairs on the Titanic. – Stephen Covey

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Marriage is our last, best chance to grow up. – Joseph Barth

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Marriage is one long conversation, checkered with disputes. – Robert Louis Stevenson

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The secret to having a good marriage is to understand that marriage must be total, it must be permanent and it must be equal. – Frank Pittman

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Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is threads, hundreds of tiny threads, which sew people together through the years. – Simone Signoret

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It is necessary but insufficient to stay married for the children's sake. It is also necessary to stay happily married for the children's sake. I'm so glad someone noticed that marriage doesn't have to make you miserable. It is just so easy to be happy I don't understand why it isn't more popular. – Frank Pittman

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Love is no assignment for cowards. – Ovid

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People think they have to find their soul mate to have a good marriage. You're not going to “find” your soul mate. Anyone you meet already has soul mates – their mother. Their father. Their lifelong friends. You get married, and after 20 years of loving, bearing and raising kids, meeting challenges – then you’ll “create” your soul mate. – Diane Sollee, [www.Smartmarriages.com](http://www.Smartmarriages.com)

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Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction. – Antoine De Saint-Exupery

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Marriage isn't supposed to make you happy – it's supposed to make you married. – Frank Pittman

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The development of a really good marriage is not a natural process. It is an achievement. – David and Vera Mace

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They haven't found Mr. Right. Maybe there's just a Mr. OK or Mr. Pretty Good. – Linda Waite, [The Case for Marriage](#)

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Love doesn't commit suicide. We have to kill it. It often simply dies of our neglect. – Diane Sollee, [www.smartmarriages.com](http://www.smartmarriages.com)

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Why would a couple that lives and sleeps together every night need dates and rituals? Precisely because they live and sleep together. – Bill Doherty, [Take Back Your Marriage](#)

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If a married couple with children has fifteen minutes of uninterrupted, nonlogical, non-problem-solving talk every day, I would put them in the top 5% of all married couples. It's an extraordinary achievement. – Bill Doherty, Take Back Your Marriage

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Marriage is not just spiritual communion, it is also remembering to take out the trash. – Dr. Joyce Brothers

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Real giving is when we give to our spouses what's important to them, whether we understand it, like it, agree with it, or not. – Michele Weiner-Davis, Divorce Busting

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They do not love who do not show their love. – Shakespeare

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We are, each of us, angels with only one wing, and we can only fly embracing each other. – Luciano DeCrescenzo

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Once it's established that we are a team, I can demand of you and expect you to demand of me. Life without pain is an addiction and the fantasy of perpetual happiness is like the "delusion of fusion." – Carl Whitaker

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You did the best that you knew how. Now that you know better, you'll do better. – Maya Angelou

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Love is a feeling, marriage is a contract, and a relationship is work. –  
Lori Gordon, founder of PAIRS (Practical Application of Intimate  
Relationship Skills)

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All those “and they lived happily ever after” fairy tale endings need to be  
changed to, “and they began the very hard work of making their marriages  
happy.” – Linda Miles, The New Marriage

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What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other? –  
George Eliot

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To get divorced because “love has died” is like selling your car because it’s  
run out of gas. – Diane Sollee, [www.Smartmarriages.com](http://www.Smartmarriages.com)

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Love is a four-letter word spelled T-I-M-E. – Anonymous

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People change and forget to tell each other. – Lillian Hellman

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Marriage is the foundation of the family and the family is the foundation of  
society: if we strengthen marriage, we strengthen the family, we strengthen  
the children and we strengthen the community. If your goal is to help  
improve the world, marriage is as good a place as any to start. – Diane  
Sollee

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Marriage, families, all relationships are more a process of learning the dance rather than finding the right dancer. – Paul Pearsall

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The question is asked, “Is there anything more beautiful in life than a young couple clasping hands and pure hearts in the path of marriage? Can there be anything more beautiful than young love?” And the answer is given, “Yes, there is a more beautiful thing. It is the spectacle of an old man and an old woman finishing their journey together on that path. Their hands are gnarled, but still clasped; their faces are seamed, but still radiant; their hearts are physically bowed and tired, but still strong with love and devotion for one another. Yes, there is a more beautiful thing than young love – old love.” – Anonymous

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What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined for life – to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, to minister to each other in all pain, to be one with each other in silent, unspeakable memories at the moment of the last parting. – George Eliot

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To keep your marriage brimming  
with love in the wedding cup,  
whenever you’re wrong, admit it;  
whenever you’re right, shut up.

Ogden Nash

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Find the good – and praise it. – Alex Haley

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When marrying, ask yourself this question: Do you believe that you will be able to converse well with this person into your old age? Everything else in

marriage is transitory. – Friedrich Nietzsche

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Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. – Thomas Edison

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### The Time is Now

If you are ever going to love me,  
Love me now, while I can know  
The sweet and tender feelings  
Which from true affection flow.  
Love me now  
While I am living.  
Do not wait until I'm gone  
And then have it chiseled in marble,  
Sweet words on ice-cold stone.  
If you have tender thoughts of me,  
Please tell me now.  
(Anonymous)

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And You Wonder Why It Didn't Last ...

She married him because he was such a “strong man”;  
She divorced him because he was such a “dominating male.”  
He married her because she was so “fragile and cute”;  
He divorced her because she was so “weak and helpless.”  
She married him because “he is a good provider”;  
She divorced him because “all he thinks about is business.”  
He married her because “she reminds me of my mother”;  
He divorced her because “she’s getting more like her mother every day.”  
She married him because he was “happy and romantic”;  
She divorced him because he was “shiftless and fun-loving.”  
He married her because she was “steady and sensible”;  
He divorced her because she was “boring and dull.”

She married him because he was “the life of the party”;  
She divorced him because “he’s a party boy.”

– Anonymous

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Death doesn’t end a relationship. It only changes it. – “I Never Sang for My Father”

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My wife uses fabric softener. I never knew what that stuff was for. Then I noticed women coming up to me, sniffing, then saying under their breath, “Married!” and walking away. Fabric softeners are how our wives mark their territory. We can take off the ring, but it’s hard to get that April fresh scent out of your clothes. – Andy Rooney

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Be tolerant of the human race. Your whole family belongs to it – and some of your spouse’s family does, too. – Anonymous

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The truth has never been of any real value to any human being. It is a symbol for mathematicians and philosophers to pursue. In human relations, kindness and lies are worth a thousand truths. – Graham Greene, The Heart of the Matter

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Like everything which is not the involuntary result of fleeting emotion, but the creation of time and will, any marriage, happy or unhappy, is infinitely more interesting and significant than any romance, however passionate. – W.H. Auden

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When you are old and gray and full of sleep,  
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,

And slowly read, and dream of the soft look  
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,  
And loved your beauty with love false or true;  
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,  
And loved the sorrows of your changing face ...

William Butler Yeats, from "When You Are Old"

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What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are  
joined ... to strengthen each other ... to be at one with each other in silent  
unspeakable memories. – George Eliot

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Take a lump of clay, wet it, pat it,  
And make an image of me, and an image of you.  
Then smash them, crash them, and add a little water.  
Break them and remake them into an image of you  
And an image of me.  
Then in my clay, there's a little of you.  
And in your clay, there's a little of me.  
And nothing ever shall us sever;  
Living, we'll sleep in the same quilt,  
And dead, we'll be buried together.

– Madame Kuan

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I will reveal to you a love potion, without medicine, without herbs, without  
any witch's magic; if you want to be love, then love. – Hecaton of Rhodes

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That I may come near to her, draw me nearer to thee than to her; that I  
may know her, make me to know thee more than her; that I may love her  
with the perfect love of a perfect, whole heart, cause me to love thee more  
than her and most of all. Amen. Amen.

That nothing may be between me and her, be thou between us, every moment. That we may be constantly together, draw us into separate loneliness with thyself. And when we meet breast to breast, my God, let it be on thine own.

Temple Gairdner, prayer before his marriage

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Do you think it is easy to change?  
Ah, it is very hard to change and be different.  
It means passing through the waters of oblivion.

– D.H. Lawrence, “Change”

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Are you willing to be sponged out, erased, cancelled, made nothing?  
Are you willing to be made nothing?  
dipped into oblivion?

If not, you will never really change.

The phoenix renews her youth  
only when she is burnt, burnt alive, burnt down  
to hot and flocculent ash.  
Then the small stirring of a new small bub in the nest  
with strands of down like floating ash  
Show that she is renewing her youth like the eagle  
Immortal bird.

– D.H. Lawrence, “Phoenix”

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Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life, for which the first was made:  
Our times are in his hand  
Who saith, “A whole I planned,  
Youth shows but half; trust God: see all, be not afraid!”

– Robert Browning, from “Rabbi Ben Ezra”

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Family love is this dynastic awareness of time, this shared belonging to a chain of generations. ... we collaborate together to root each other in a dimension of time longer than our own lives. – Michael Ignatieff, “Lodged in the Heart and Memory”

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Love is a battle. Love is war. Love is growing up. – James Baldwin

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Apparently I am going to marry Charles Lindbergh. It must seem hysterically funny to you as it did to me, when I consider my opinions on marriage. “A safe marriage,” “things in common,” “liking the same things,” “a quiet life,” etc., etc. All those things which I am apparently going against. But they seem to have lost their meaning, or have other definitions. Isn’t it funny – *why does* one marry, anyway? I didn’t expect or want anything like this. ...

Don’t wish me happiness – I don’t expect to be happy, but it’s gotten beyond that, somehow. Wish me courage and strength and a sense of humor – I will need them all. ... – Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Bring Me a Unicorn

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You say, to me-wards your affection’s strong;  
Pray love me little, so you love me long.  
Slowly goes farre: The meane is best: Desire  
Grown violent, do’s either die, or tire.

– Robert Herrick, “Love Me Little, Love Me Long”

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Two are better than one; they receive a good reward for their toil, because, if one fails, the other can help his companion up again; but alas for the man who falls alone with no partner to help him up. And, if two lie side by side, they keep each other warm; but how can one keep warm by himself? If a man is alone, an assailant may overpower him, but two can resist; and a cord

of three strands is not quickly snapped. – Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (New English Bible)

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... our life reminds me  
of a forest in which there is a graceful clearing  
and in that opening a house,  
an orchard and garden,  
comfortable shades, and flowers ...  
The forest is mostly dark, its ways  
To be made anew day after day, the dark  
richer than the light and more blessed,  
provided we stay brave  
enough to keep on going in ...

– Wendell Berry, from “The Country of Marriage”

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Out of the ashes of the past, new life is born. – White Eagle

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Everybody thinks of changing humanity, but nobody thinks of changing himself. – Leo Tolstoy

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Marriage is our last, best chance to grow up. – Joseph Barth

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People change and forget to tell each other. – Lillian Hellman

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The first duty of love is to listen. – Paul Tillich

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In matters of love, the beginning of the end often turns out to be but the end of the beginning. – Anonymous

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Hidden deep in the heart of things, Thou carest for growth and life: the seed becomes shoot, the bud a blossom, the flower becomes fruit. Tired I slept on my idle bed in the illusion that the work had an end. In the morning I awoke to find that my garden was full of flowers. – Tagore

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All, everything that I understand, I understand only because I love. – Leo Tolstoy

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Darkness reigns at the foot of the lighthouse. – Japanese proverb

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In this world there is nothing softer or thinner than water. But to compel the hard and unyielding, it has no equal. That the weak overcomes the strong, that the hard gives way to the gentle – this everyone knows, but no one acts accordingly. – Lao-Tzu

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But the bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding go out to meet it. – Thucydides

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A happy marriage is not a gift; it's an achievement. – Ann Landers

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Friendship between two persons depends upon the patience of one. – Native American proverb

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Nothing is plum, level or square:  
the studs are bowed, the joists  
are shaky by nature, no piece fits  
any other piece without a gap  
or pinch, and bent nails  
dance all over the surfacing  
like maggots. By Christ

I am no carpenter. I built  
the roof for myself, the walls

For myself, the floors  
for myself, and got

Hung up in it myself. I  
danced with purple thumb

At this house-warming, drunk  
with my prime whiskey: rage.

Oh I spat rage's nails  
into the frame-up of my work:  
it held. It settled plumb,  
level, solid, square and true  
for that great moment. Then  
it screamed and went on through,  
skewing as wrong the other way.

God damned it. This is hell,

but I planned it, I sawed it,

I nailed it, and I

will live in it until it kills me.

I can nail my left palm

to the left-hand cross-piece but

I can't do everything myself.

I need a hand to nail the right,  
a help, a love, a you, a wife.

– Alan Dugan, “Love Song: I and Thou”

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There is always something left to love. And if you ain't learned that, you ain't learned nothing. – Lorraine Hansberry

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Here's to matrimony, the high sea for which no compass has yet been invented. – Heinrich Heine

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We are not at home where our dwelling is, but where we are understood. – Christian Morgenstern

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The body travels more easily than the mind, and until we have limbered up our imagination we continue to think as though we had stayed at home. We have not really budged a step until we take up residence in someone else's point of view. – John Erskine

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In love the paradox occurs that two beings become one and yet remain two. – Erich Fromm

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We want people to feel with us more than to act for us. – George Eliot

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Give her two red roses, each with a note. The first note says "For the woman I love" and the second, "For my best friend." – Unknown

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Moonlight and roses are bound to fade  
for every lover and every maid  
but the bond that holds in any weather

is learning how to laugh together.

– Unknown

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Real giving is when we give to our spouses what's important to them, whether we understand it, like it, agree with it, or not. – Michele Weiner-Davis, Divorce Busting

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They do not love who do not show their love. – William Shakespeare

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We are, each of us, angels with only one wing, and we can only fly embracing each other. – Luciano DeCrescenzo

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I got gaps; you got gaps; we fill each other's gaps. – Rocky

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**The Time is Now**

If you are ever going to love me,  
Love me now, while I can know  
The sweet and tender feelings  
Which from true affection flow.  
Love me now  
While I am living.  
Do not wait until I'm gone  
And then have it chiseled in marble,  
Sweet words on ice-cold stone.  
If you have tender thoughts of me,  
Please tell me now.

– Unknown

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My wife uses fabric softener. I never knew what that stuff was for. Then I noticed women coming up to me, sniffing, then saying under their breath, “Married!” and walking away. Fabric softeners are how our wives mark their territory. We can take off the ring, but it’s hard to get that April fresh scent out of your clothes. – Andy Rooney

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Try praising your wife, even if it does frighten her at first. – Billy Sunday

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My wife says I never listen to her ... at least I think that’s what she said. – Unknown

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Married life teaches one invaluable lesson: to think of things far enough ahead not to say them. – Jefferson Machamer

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Monogamy is, most appealingly, an energy-saving device which prevents you wasting time and effort on hunting new prey, deceiving a partner or curing a broken heart or bruised ego. Preserve trust in this essential area of your life and you can reap tremendous rewards: the 100 per cent devotion of another human being fuels your ambition, supports you in your mission and helps you to overcome obstacles. Monogamy has much to offer. We should trumpet its benefits far more loudly in sex-education classes and teen magazines. The chastity pledge “Just say no” has failed to catch on; “Just with you” should be an easier sell. – Cristina Odone, *The Observer*

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New love is the brightest, and long love is the greatest, but revived love is the tenderest thing known on earth. – Thomas Hardy

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Ever wonder why people are so determined to reach for white picket fences, supposed normalcy, a nuclear family? Well, try growing up without one. – Daniel King, *The Village Voice*