

Betty Friedan Quotes

*Men, Children, Years, Home, Mother, Women, Sex, Thinking, Want, Feminist,
Husband, Lost Youth, Real, Age, Responsibility, Kids, Jobs, School, Diversity,
Self*

Aging is not "lost youth" but a new stage of opportunity and strength.

~Betty Friedan

Instead of fulfilling the promise of infinite orgasmic bliss, sex in the America of the feminine mystique is becoming a strangely joyless national compulsion, if not a contemptuous mockery.

~Betty Friedan

Who knows what women can be when they are finally free to become themselves?

~Betty Friedan

The feminine mystique has succeeded in burying millions of American women alive.

~Betty Friedan

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

~Betty Friedan

Men are not the enemy, but the fellow victims. The real enemy is women's denigration of themselves.

~Betty Friedan

A good woman is one who loves passionately, has guts, seriousness and passionate convictions, takes responsibility, and shapes society.

~Betty Friedan

Some people think I'm saying, 'Women of the world unite -- you have nothing to lose but your men. It's not true. You have nothing to lose but your vacuum cleaners.'

~Betty Friedan

When she stopped conforming to the conventional picture of femininity

she finally began to enjoy being a woman.

~Betty Friedan

No woman gets an orgasm from shining the kitchen floor.

~Betty Friedan

We need a new political movement of women and men toward a new society.

~Betty Friedan

If divorce has increased by one thousand percent, don't blame the women's movement. Blame the obsolete sex roles on which our marriages were based.

~Betty Friedan

Just as darkness is sometimes defined as the absence of light, so age is defined as the absence of youth.

~Betty Friedan

The feminist revolution had to be fought because women quite simply were stopped at a state of evolution far short of their human capacity.

~Betty Friedan

The feminists had destroyed the old image of woman, but they could not erase the hostility, the prejudice, the discrimination that still remained.

~Betty Friedan

It is frightening when a woman finally realizes that there is no answer to the question 'who am I' except the voice inside herself.

~Betty Friedan

Who knows what women can be when they are finally free to become themselves? Who knows what women's intelligence will contribute

when it can be nourished without denying love?

~Betty Friedan

The only way for a woman, as for a man, to find herself, to know herself as a person, is by creative work of her own.

~Betty Friedan

Men weren't really the enemy - they were fellow victims suffering from an outmoded masculine mystique that made them feel unnecessarily inadequate when there were no bears to kill.

~Betty Friedan

Today the problem that has no name is how to juggle work, love, home and children.

~Betty Friedan

Regardless of your age, you will always have adventures, unexpected joys and unexpected sorrows.

~Betty Friedan

Women, because they are not generally the principal breadwinners, can be perhaps most useful as the trail blazers, working along the bypaths, doing the unusual job that men cannot afford to gamble on.

~Betty Friedan

Protectiveness has often muffled the sound of doors closing against women.

~Betty Friedan

There is absolutely no evidence that it is harmful to children if their mother's health, well-being and autonomy and control of her own destiny is maximized by work outside the home.

~Betty Friedan

We need to see men and women as equal partners, but its hard to think of movies that do that. When I talk to people, they think of movies of forty-five years ago! Hepburn and Tracy!

~Betty Friedan

You can have it all, just not all at the same time.

~Betty Friedan

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

[Feminist:] One who believes in the liberation of that which has been suppressed as female in a man.

~Betty Friedan

I can't point to any major episodes of sexual discrimination in my early life. But I was so aware of the crime, the shame that there was no use of my mother's ability and energy.

~Betty Friedan

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

~Betty Friedan

We can no longer ignore that voice within women that says: 'I want something more than my husband and my children and my home.'

~Betty Friedan

The situation of women and men is not comparable to worker-boss or black and white.

~Betty Friedan

Each woman is made to feel it is her own cross to bear if she can't be the perfect clone of the male superman and the perfect clone of the feminine mystique.

~Betty Friedan

Aging will create the music of the coming century.

~Betty Friedan

I understood somehow my mother's frustration. And that it was no good not only for her, but for her children or her husband, that she didn't have a real use of her ability.

~Betty Friedan

He's a male chauvinistic piglet.

~Betty Friedan

I knew one thing. I did not want to be a mommy like mommy.

~Betty Friedan

Advice? I don't offer advice. Not my business. Your life is what you make it.

~Betty Friedan

Most of the people in the workforce today will spend some years when they also have children and family responsibilities.

~Betty Friedan

I have discovered that there is a crucial difference between society's image of old people and 'us' as we know and feel ourselves to be.

~Betty Friedan

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

I wouldn't be satisfied with a life lived solely on the barricades. I reserve my right to be frivolous.

~Betty Friedan

You have to say no to the old ways before you can begin to find the new yes you need.

~Betty Friedan

It is perhaps beside the point to remark that bowling alleys and supermarkets have nursery facilities, while schools and colleges and scientific laboratories and government offices do not.

~Betty Friedan

If I were a man, I would strenuously object to the assumption that women have any moral or spiritual superiority as a class.

~Betty Friedan

Dominance is a burden. Most men who are honest will admit that.

~Betty Friedan

Neither woman nor man lives by work, or love, alone ... The human self defines itself and grows through love and work: All psychology before and after Freud boils down to that.

~Betty Friedan

I'm my age and I feel glorious.

~Betty Friedan

You can show more of the reality of yourself instead of hiding behind a mask for fear of revealing too much

~Betty Friedan

My adolescence was quite miserable, when I look back on it, at least my early part of my adolescence. Because there was anti-Semitism in Peoria, and I didn't feel that when I was in elementary school.

~Betty Friedan

Women today have choices and demand choices, choices to have kids or not and the reproductive technology thereto. And it is a fact [that] most women continue to chose to have children.

~Betty Friedan

When [the] life span of America women is approaching eighty years having kids is not going to take it up.

~Betty Friedan

When I was in high school, even in college, I didn't have any real image of a career woman or a professional woman.

~Betty Friedan

I didn't want to be in a situation where I was broader than the boys, which I was, in the academic world.

~Betty Friedan

I just decided that I didn't want to be in the academic world, because it was [really] too easy for me at the top. But also it wasn't active enough for me.

~Betty Friedan

I love newspapers. I've worked on newspapers, all my life. I've always loved it.

~Betty Friedan

I would have much rather been in the jalopy with the kids, going to Hunt's for hamburgers. But, when I entered high school, all my friends got into sororities and fraternities and I didn't.

~Betty Friedan

I won a really big fellowship to go straight on to get my Ph.D. And I went through agonies of indecision, and then I decided not to accept it. I just decided I didn't want to be an academic.

~Betty Friedan

I loved my kids. And I loved my house, and I loved a lot of things about my life in the 1950s. But there were a lot like me in that era, very overeducated housewives.

~Betty Friedan

American women were frustrated in just the role of housewife - but they also managed to enlarge it. And they weren't just housewives, they were community leaders.

~Betty Friedan

Whatever I wrote was heretical. It offended the editors of the women's magazines.

~Betty Friedan

To protest free speech in the name of protecting women is dangerous and wrong.

~Betty Friedan

Getting older is an adventure, not a problem.

~Betty Friedan

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