

# Ellen Goodman Quotes

*People, Children, Writing, Thinking, Life, Father, Jobs, Believe, Home, Looks,  
School, Sleep, Today, Loss, Stress, Cities, Yesterday, Needs, Television, Age*

Let's just say that global warming deniers are now on a par with Holocaust deniers.

~Ellen Goodman

I have never been especially impressed by the heroics of people convinced they are about to change the world. I am more awed by those who struggle to make one small difference.

~Ellen Goodman

Most people do not consider dawn to be an attractive experience - unless they are still up.

~Ellen Goodman

Maybe this year, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives not looking for flaws, but looking for potential.

~Ellen Goodman

The central struggle of parenthood is to let our hopes for our children outweigh our fears.

~Ellen Goodman

I regard this novel as a work without redeeming social value, unless it can be recycled as a cardboard box.

~Ellen Goodman

What he labels sexual, she labels harassment.

~Ellen Goodman

Today, much of journalism and politics are in a kind of collusion to oversimplify and personalize issues. No room for ambivalence. Plenty of room for the personal attack.

~Ellen Goodman

Ultimately, time is all you have and the idea isn't to save it, but to

savour it.

~Ellen Goodman

Our 'mistakes' become our crucial parts, sometimes our best parts, of the lives we have made.

~Ellen Goodman

Forty is ... an age at which people have histories and options. At thirty, they had perhaps less history. At fifty, perhaps fewer options.

~Ellen Goodman

In today's amphetamine world of news junkies, speed trumps thoughtfulness too often.

~Ellen Goodman

You can fire your secretary, divorce your spouse, abandon your children. But they remain your co-authors forever.

~Ellen Goodman

In journalism, there has always been a tension between getting it first and getting it right.

~Ellen Goodman

When speech is divorced from speaker and word from meaning, what is left is just ritual, language as ritual.

~Ellen Goodman

How come pleasure never makes it on to... a dutiful list of do's and don'ts? Doesn't joy also get soft and flabby if you neglect to exercise it?

~Ellen Goodman

Slowly we adjust, but only if we have to.

~Ellen Goodman

When we describe what the other person is really like, I suppose we often picture what we want. We look through the prism of our need.

~Ellen Goodman

The things we hate about ourselves aren't more real than things we like about ourselves.

~Ellen Goodman

Values are not trendy items that are casually traded in.

~Ellen Goodman

We continually want to unmask our heroes as if there were more to be learned from their nakedness than from their choice of clothing.

~Ellen Goodman

Welfare is ... the victim of national compassion fatigue.

~Ellen Goodman

Once upon a time we were just plain people. But that was before we began having relationships with mechanical systems. Get involved with a machine and sooner or later you are reduced to a factor.

~Ellen Goodman

The same people who tell us that smoking doesn't cause cancer are now telling us that advertising cigarettes doesn't cause smoking.

~Ellen Goodman

Traditions are the guideposts driven deep in our subconscious minds. The most powerful ones are those we can't even describe and aren't even aware of.

~Ellen Goodman

Age is an accumulation of life and loss. Adulthood is a series of lines crossed.

~Ellen Goodman

We owned what we learned back there; the experience and the growth are grafted into our lives.

~Ellen Goodman

women who once aspired to the image of superwoman now worry about becoming superdudge. Those who wanted to have it all now ask whether they have to do it all.

~Ellen Goodman

If women can sleep their way to the top, how come they aren't there?

~Ellen Goodman

instant opinion is an oxymoron. You don't get real opinions in an instant. You get reactions.

~Ellen Goodman

Pro-choice supporters are often heard using the cool language of the courts and the vocabulary of rights. Americans who are deeply ambivalent about abortion often miss the sound of caring.

~Ellen Goodman

When you live alone, you can be sure that the person who squeezed the toothpaste tube in the middle wasn't committing a hostile act.

~Ellen Goodman

Women have gained access to the institutions, but not enough power to overhaul them.

~Ellen Goodman

Everyone who deals with teens seems to agree that the most important and toughest job is staying in connection and conversation ... not delivering a lecture but saying what we think.

~Ellen Goodman

She goes in with a prejudice and comes out with a statistic.

~Ellen Goodman

Alternative Lifestyles, the emotional fly-drive packages of our times, come equipped with a set of clothes, a choice of authors, a limited menu of sports and a discount coupon book of clichés.

~Ellen Goodman

You can teach someone who cares to write columns, but you can't teach someone who writes columns to care.

~Ellen Goodman

I suppose we make kids the repository of our highest ideals because children are powerless. In that way we can have ideals and ignore them at the same time.

~Ellen Goodman

Parents remain our touchstones, fellow travelers, even after death. They are both missing and present.

~Ellen Goodman

On television, journalists now routinely appear on talk-shows-with-an-attitude where they are encouraged to say what they think about something they may not have finished thinking about.

~Ellen Goodman

I don't know exactly why the notion of homeownership has such a grasp on the American imagination. Perhaps as descendants of landless immigrants we turn our plots into symbols of stability.

~Ellen Goodman

What advertisers call brand loyalty is merely the consumer's defense

against the need to waste energy differentiating among things that barely differ.

~Ellen Goodman

You can believe in women's rights without believing that every woman is right.

~Ellen Goodman

People have been writing premature obituaries on the women's movement since its beginning.

~Ellen Goodman

It has begun to occur to me that life is a stage I'm going through.

~Ellen Goodman

I think most of us become self-critical as soon as we become self-conscious.

~Ellen Goodman

Taboos are falling across our culture like dominoes. What was unspeakable yesterday dominates talk shows today.

~Ellen Goodman

My father used to say that if a man fools you once, he's a jerk. If he fools you twice, you're a jerk. Only he didn't use the word "jerk."

~Ellen Goodman

Statistically speaking, the Cheerful Early Riser is rejected more completely than a member of any other subculture, save those with boot odor.

~Ellen Goodman

we have made an extraordinary transition. From moral absolutes to moral relativism. ... Moral problems become medical ones and

yesterday's sinners become today's patients.

~Ellen Goodman

Saving time, it seems, has a primacy that's too rarely examined.

~Ellen Goodman

Maybe at 20 you can write well, but I don't think you could do what I do. Some things have to happen to you first.

~Ellen Goodman

[E]very time you think the entertainment moguls have hit rock bottom, they reach for the jackhammer and rat-a-tat-tat a little deeper.

~Ellen Goodman

Kerry asks Americans to look at the evidence. Bush asks people to believe.

~Ellen Goodman

It is, I suppose, the business of grandparents to create memories and the relative of memories: traditions. We want to lodge moments, like snapshots, in the fleeting video of time.

~Ellen Goodman

We may never know why Joe Ellis fabricated a heroic past. But we know that the life he embellished has deeply diminished the life he'd earned.

~Ellen Goodman

We want our children to fit in and to stand out. We rarely address the conflict between these goals.

~Ellen Goodman

Civility, it is said, means obeying the unenforceable.

~Ellen Goodman



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