

# Naomi Wolf

## Quotes

*Self Esteem, Men, People, Thinking, America, Believe, Beautiful, Country, Long, Real, Party, Democracy, Want, Two, Self, Winning, Feminist, Age, Political, Risk*

We as women are trained to see ourselves as cheap imitations of fashion photographs, rather than seeing fashion photographs as cheap imitations of women

~Naomi Wolf

A Mother who radiates self-love and self-acceptance actually VACCINATES her daughter against low self-esteem.

~Naomi Wolf

The woman wins who calls herself beautiful, and challenges the world to change to fit her vision.

~Naomi Wolf

A cultural fixation on female thinness is not an obsession about female beauty but an obsession about female obedience.

~Naomi Wolf

What editors are obliged to appear to say that

~Naomi Wolf

Culture stereotypes women to fit the myth by flattening the feminine into beauty-without-intelligence or intelligence-without-beauty; women are allowed a mind or a body but not both.

~Naomi Wolf

Women who love themselves are threatening; but men who love real women, more so.

~Naomi Wolf

Spokespeople sell women the Iron Maiden and name her "Health": if public discourse were really concerned with women's health, it would turn angrily upon this aspect of the beauty myth.

~Naomi Wolf

Only one thing is more frightening than speaking your truth, and that is not speaking.

~Naomi Wolf

Cosmetic surgery processes the bodies of woman-made women, who make up the vast majority of its patient pool, into man-made women.

~Naomi Wolf

Become goddesses of disobedience.

~Naomi Wolf

Obstacles, of course, are developmentally necessary: they teach kids strategy, patience, critical thinking, resilience and resourcefulness.

~Naomi Wolf

Pain is real when you get other people to believe in it. If no one believes in it but you, your pain is madness or hysteria.

~Naomi Wolf

To ask women to become unnaturally thin is to ask them to relinquish their sexuality.

~Naomi Wolf

The beauty myth moves for men as a mirage; its power lies in its ever-receding nature. When the gap is closed, the lover embraces only his own disillusion.

~Naomi Wolf

Democracy is disruptive... there is no right in a democratic civil society to be free of disruption.

~Naomi Wolf

Since Madonna is positioned as always "cooler than thou", we all are primed for schadenfreude if something in her fabulous life goes amiss.

~Naomi Wolf

Women who are beautiful or who achieve beauty according to the imposed standards are rewarded; those who cannot or choose not to be beautiful are punished, economically and socially.

~Naomi Wolf

Beauty provokes harassment, the law says, but it looks through men's eyes when deciding what provokes it.

~Naomi Wolf

To live in a culture in which women are routinely naked where men aren't is to learn inequality in little ways all day long.

~Naomi Wolf

Western women have been controlled by ideals and stereotypes as much as by material constraints.

~Naomi Wolf

The beauty myth is always actually prescribing behaviour and not appearance.

~Naomi Wolf

As women demanded access to power, the power structure used the beauty myth materially to undermine women's advancement.

~Naomi Wolf

The Western sexual revolution sucks. It has not worked well enough for women.

~Naomi Wolf

It's human nature to abuse power, no matter who you are.

~Naomi Wolf

The Victorian woman became her ovaries, as today's woman has become her "beauty."

~Naomi Wolf

Maybe the less pain we inflict on our bodies, the more beautiful our bodies will look to us

~Naomi Wolf

Beauty discrimination has become necessary, not from the perception that women will not be good enough, but that they will be, as they have been, twice as good.

~Naomi Wolf

The stronger that women grow, the more prestige, fame, and money is accorded to the display professions: They are held higher and higher above the heads of rising women, for them to emulate.

~Naomi Wolf

What editors are obliged to appear to say that men want from women is actually what their advertisers want from women.

~Naomi Wolf

Women have face-lifts in a society in which women without them appear to vanish from sight.

~Naomi Wolf

Peaceful, lawful protest - if it is effective - IS innately disruptive of business as usual. • That is WHY it is effective.

~Naomi Wolf

Beauty' is a currency system like the gold standard.

~Naomi Wolf

At least a third of a woman's life is marked with aging; about a third of

her body is made of fat. Both symbols are being transformed into operable condition

~Naomi Wolf

Most urgently, women's identity must be premised upon our 'beauty' so that we will remain vulnerable to outside approval, carrying the vital sensitive organ of self-esteem exposed to the air.

~Naomi Wolf

We are in the midst of a violent backlash against feminism that uses images of female beauty as political weapons against women's advancement.

~Naomi Wolf

Aging in women is 'unbeautiful' since women grow more powerful with time, and since the links between generations of women must always be broken.

~Naomi Wolf

The real fight isn't left or right but between forces of democracy across the spectrum and the forces of tyranny.

~Naomi Wolf

Cosmetic surgery and the ideology of self-improvement may have made women's hope for legal recourse to justice obsolete.

~Naomi Wolf

Health makes good propaganda.

~Naomi Wolf

It is fairly well-known what has been behind that climate change denial in America: vast sums pumped into an ignorance industry by the oil and gas lobbies.

~Naomi Wolf

My job is to notice echoes and notice resonances. Scientists are not supposed to do the same thing that cultural critics do.

~Naomi Wolf

The more legal and material hindrances women have broken through, the more strictly and heavily and cruelly images of female beauty have come to weigh upon them.

~Naomi Wolf

The First Amendment was designed to allow for disruption of business as usual. It is not a quiet and subdued amendment or right.

~Naomi Wolf

When people like Glenn Beck throw around the word Nazi without taking that kind of care, they are engaging in demagoguery. I am doing it with a concrete footnoted historical context.

~Naomi Wolf

To find freedom and happiness in each others' arms, or you know, inside their own bodies and minds. That is a very empowering thing in a society that's trying to control us all the time.

~Naomi Wolf

It is never smart, even in a strong democracy, to declare some debate off limits. In a weakening democracy it is catastrophic.

~Naomi Wolf

The Tea Party emerged from a laudably grassroots base: libertarians, fervent Constitutionalsists, and ordinary people alarmed at the suppression of liberties, whether by George W. Bush or Barack Obama.

~Naomi Wolf

Citizens who live or work near protest sites or marches have every right

to be free of violence from protesters, and they should never be subjected to destruction of property.

~Naomi Wolf

The symbolic value of having an African-American president has certainly eased some racial tensions in America, but they're not gone.

~Naomi Wolf

In a fascist shift, reporters start to face more and more harassment, and they have to be more and more courageous simply in order to do their jobs.

~Naomi Wolf

There was a bad patch in the '80s and early '90s when feminist thinking had become sort of a monopoly and had developed a series of litmus tests.

~Naomi Wolf

If the whole world is a battlefield, then the United States is also a battlefield.

~Naomi Wolf

When I went on Fox News people asked me why I was going on those shows. Are you kidding? You have to go, especially to people you don't agree with.

~Naomi Wolf

Conservatives' views of liberals are just as distorted as ours are of conservatives.

~Naomi Wolf

What are other women really thinking, feeling, experiencing, when they slip away from the gaze and culture of men?

~Naomi Wolf

When I was a baby feminist, leading feminist thinkers were insisting that if women ran the world, there would be no sadism or war.

~Naomi Wolf

Protesters should make their own media and not rely on mainstream media to cover them.

~Naomi Wolf

Documentary film without nuanced journalistic sourcing risks being sensational, tendentious or broad-brushed.

~Naomi Wolf

How is it even sustainable in 21st-century America, that women earn, on average, 77 cents for every dollar earned by men?

~Naomi Wolf

I'm a big believer in debate and difference of opinion.

~Naomi Wolf

'The End of America' details the 10 steps that would-be dictators always take in seeking to close an open society; it argued that the Bush administration had been advancing each one.

~Naomi Wolf

It has been said that each generation must win its own struggle to be free. -Robert F. Kennedy

~Naomi Wolf

For all the power of video and film, I am not giving up my pen... together they are more than the sum of their parts.

~Naomi Wolf

When women breached the power structure in the 1980s?two economies finally merged. Beauty was no longer just a symbolic form of

currency: it literally became money.

~Naomi Wolf

I'll go anywhere to talk about the Constitution. I believe in trans-partisan organizing around these issues.

~Naomi Wolf

Since Reagan, it's almost impossible to get funding for research on sexual pleasure. You can find sexual behavior research, but not sexual pleasure. And let alone lesbian or homosexual sexuality.

~Naomi Wolf

I've never understood this puritanical idea that feminism has to be a cult. You know, we all have to think alike or dress alike or have a similar ideology.

~Naomi Wolf

With the Internet there is even more fractioning since we are in echo chambers. With so much propaganda it is hard to calm down enough to listen.

~Naomi Wolf

When a leader has deployed a private army, that is one definition of a police state. Another is when the president, or a leader, has his own treasury.

~Naomi Wolf

I don't think we've got the concept in the West that male desire degrades men. Or that if men become sexually active, they become debased in some way, or slutty. Or lose status.

~Naomi Wolf

Evolutionary biology is crazy because sometimes it seems anybody can draw any conclusion they want.

~Naomi Wolf

It is foolish for people to think they can align themselves and be safe in a police state.

~Naomi Wolf

From a constitutional point of view George W. Bush passing through the Patriot Act is no worse than Obama renewing it.

~Naomi Wolf

Women's orgasms will quadruple in intensity if she's in a beautiful, dimly lit room versus a brightly lit, uncomfortable room.

~Naomi Wolf

Frankly, liberals are out of the habit of communicating with anyone outside their own in cohort. We have a cultural problem with self-righteousness and elitism.

~Naomi Wolf

Millions of people have to restore liberty and have to understand the danger and personal risk they face in a police state.

~Naomi Wolf

I don't want people to be suicidal. I want them to be energized and angry.

~Naomi Wolf

I don't want to overstate tantra because I'm sure there are scumbags everywhere, but it seems like it's an ideology that actually respects female desire.

~Naomi Wolf

Today a woman must ignore her reflection in the eyes of her lover, since he might admire her, and seek it in the gaze of the God of

Beauty, in whose perception she is never complete.

~Naomi Wolf

I'm asking people to think critically and not to be lazy in their thinking.

~Naomi Wolf

Historically, when a leader has deployed his own military against civilians, it's never been good. There's never been a time where it's ended well.

~Naomi Wolf

Women are mere "beauties" in men's culture so that culture can be kept male. When women in culture show character, they are not desirable, as opposed to the desirable, artless ingenue.

~Naomi Wolf

We need to get back into grappling with people we disagree with if we want to restore the Republic.

~Naomi Wolf

Poststructuralism. . . . is a form of literary criticism that uses elaborate wordplay to prove its central premise, that all language is internally contradictory and has no fixed meaning.

~Naomi Wolf

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