

# Nora Ephron Quotes

*People, Thinking, Believe, Book, Writing, Men, Years, Reading, Want, Mean,  
Way, Looks, Women, Knowing, Sex, Laughing, Children, Long, Lasts, Reality*

Above all, be the heroine of your life, not the victim.

~Nora Ephron

When you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible.

~Nora Ephron

I am continually fascinated at the difficulty intelligent people have in distinguishing what is controversial from what is merely offensive.

~Nora Ephron

Summer bachelors, like summer breezes, are never as cool as they pretend to be.

~Nora Ephron

If pregnancy were a book they would cut the last two chapters.

~Nora Ephron

My mother wanted us to understand that the tragedies of your life one day have the potential to be comic stories the next.

~Nora Ephron

Marriages come and go, but divorce is forever.

~Nora Ephron

Some people pretend to like capers, but the truth is that any dish that tastes good with capers in it tastes even better with capers not in it.

~Nora Ephron

That [photographs] disturb readers is exactly as it should be: that's why photojournalism is often more powerful than written journalism.

~Nora Ephron

If you're looking for monogamy, you'd better marry a swan.

~Nora Ephron

When your children are teenagers, it's important to have a dog so that someone in the house is happy to see you.

~Nora Ephron

With any child entering adolescence, one hunts for signs of health, is desperate for the smallest indication that the child's problems will never be important enough for a television movie.

~Nora Ephron

Sometimes I believe that some people are better at love than others, and sometimes I believe that everyone is faking it.

~Nora Ephron

Don't you love New York in the fall? It makes me want to buy school supplies. I would send you a bouquet of newly sharpened pencils if I knew your name and address.

~Nora Ephron

You can settle for reality, or you can go off, like a fool, and dream another dream.

~Nora Ephron

I don't think any day is worth living without thinking about what you're going to eat next at all times.

~Nora Ephron

The major concrete achievement of the women's movement of the 1970's was the Dutch treat.

~Nora Ephron

In my sex fantasy, nobody ever loves me for my mind.

~Nora Ephron

We have lived through the era when happiness was a warm puppy, and the era when happiness was a dry martini, and now we have come to the era when happiness is 'knowing what your uterus looks like'.

~Nora Ephron

I try to write parts for women that are as complicated and interesting as women actually are.

~Nora Ephron

Insane people are always sure they're just fine. It's only the sane people who are willing to admit they're crazy.

~Nora Ephron

I always say that a successful parent is one who raises a child so that they can pay for their own psychoanalysis.

~Nora Ephron

Oh, how I regret not having worn a bikini for the entire year I was twenty-six. If anyone young is reading this, go, right this minute, put on a bikini, and don't take it off until you're thirty-four.

~Nora Ephron

I think if you're lucky enough to find a voice in whatever you do, that voice will come sneaking out no matter what.

~Nora Ephron

New Orleans is one of the two most ingrown, self-obsessed little cities in the United States. (The other is San Francisco.)

~Nora Ephron

And don't be frightened: you can always change your mind. I know: I've had four careers and three husbands.

~Nora Ephron

You enter into a certain amount of madness when you marry a person with pets.

~Nora Ephron

The hardest thing about writing is writing.

~Nora Ephron

I have made a lot of mistakes falling in love, and regretted most of them, but never the potatoes that went with them.

~Nora Ephron

When you have a baby, you set off an explosion in your marriage, and when the dust settles, your marriage is different from what it was. Not better, necessarily; not worse, necessarily; but different.

~Nora Ephron

Most of us live our lives devoid of cinematic moments.

~Nora Ephron

It's so interesting that we think we know the rules to this game, this total hypothetical game called, "Would you," "If you had it to do over." It's not out there.

~Nora Ephron

Reading makes me feel I've accomplished something, learned something, become a better person. ... Reading is bliss.

~Nora Ephron

And then the dreams break into a million tiny pieces. The dream dies. Which leaves you with a choice: you can settle for reality, or you can go off, like a fool, and dream another dream.

~Nora Ephron

The only way to learn is to keep doing something new, and, if you're

lucky, learning with people who really know how to do it.

~Nora Ephron

One of the few advantages to not being beautiful is that one usually gets better-looking as one gets older. I am, in fact, at this very moment gaining my looks.

~Nora Ephron

Beware of men who cry. It's true that men who cry are sensitive to and in touch with feelings, but the only feelings they tend to be sensitive to and in touch with are their own.

~Nora Ephron

Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead.

~Nora Ephron

My mother was a good recreational cook, but what she basically believed about cooking was that if you worked hard and prospered, someone else would do it for you.

~Nora Ephron

I have a theory that children remember two things-when you weren't there and when they threw up.

~Nora Ephron

Lesbianism has always seemed to me an extremely inventive response to a shortage of men, but otherwise not worth the trouble.

~Nora Ephron

Whenever I get married, I start buying Gourmet magazine.

~Nora Ephron

What I love about cooking is that after a hard day, there is something comforting about the fact that if you melt butter and add flour and then

hot stock, it will get thick!

~Nora Ephron

Reading is escape, and the opposite of escape.

~Nora Ephron

When I buy a new book, I always read the last page first, that way in case I die before I finish, I know how it ends. That, my friend, is a dark side.

~Nora Ephron

No man can be friends with a woman he finds attractive. He always wants to have sex with her. Sex is always out there. Friendship is ultimately doomed and that is the end of the story.

~Nora Ephron

I don't care who you are. When you sit down to write the first page of your screenplay, in your head, you're also writing your Oscar acceptance speech.

~Nora Ephron

Parenting meant that whether or not your children understood you, your obligation was to understand them.

~Nora Ephron

In fact, looking back, it seems to me that I was clueless until I was about 50-years-old.

~Nora Ephron

You always think that a bolt of lightning is going to strike and your parents will magically change into the people you wish they were, or back into the people they used to be.

~Nora Ephron

So much of what I see reminds me of something I read in a book, when shouldn't it be the other way around?

~Nora Ephron

When you slip on a banana peel, people laugh at you. But when you tell people you slipped on a banana peel, it's your laugh.

~Nora Ephron

The desire to get married, which - I regret to say, I believe is basic and primal in women - is followed almost immediately by an equally basic and primal urge - which is to be single again.

~Nora Ephron

The big cities of America are becoming Third World countries.

~Nora Ephron

Too few journalists become screenwriters. I say to all the would-be screenwriters: Become journalists. And I'll say to working journalists: Do not stay journalists. Become screenwriters.

~Nora Ephron

There is no reason to confuse television news with journalism.

~Nora Ephron

I know that I am essentially a sort of fun-loving person who really just wants to sit around and eat pies.

~Nora Ephron

I'm very much a believer in knowing what it is that you love doing so you can do a great deal of it.

~Nora Ephron

Take notes. Everything is copy.

~Nora Ephron

â€the amount of maintenance involving hair is genuinely overwhelming. Sometimes I think that not having to worry about your hair anymore is the secret upside of death.

~Nora Ephron

Everybody dies. There's nothing you can do about it. Whether you eat six almonds a day. Whether or not you believe in God.

~Nora Ephron

So, twice a week, I go to a beauty salon and have my hair blown dry. It's cheaper by far than psychoanalysis, and much more uplifting.

~Nora Ephron

Never marry a man you wouldn't want to be divorced from.

~Nora Ephron

I was just taking her hand to help her out of a car and I knew. It was like... magic.

~Nora Ephron

You can't call yourself a feminist if you don't believe in the right to abortion.

~Nora Ephron

Verbal ability is a highly overrated thing in a guy, and it's our pathetic need for it that gets us into so much trouble.

~Nora Ephron

I cannot understand any woman's wanting to be the first woman to do anything. ... It is a devastating burden and I could not take it, could not be a pioneer, a Symbol of Something Greater.

~Nora Ephron

What failure of imagination had caused me to forget that life was full of

other possibilities, including the possibility that eventually I would fall in love again?

~Nora Ephron

A man who finishes a book is always alone when he finishes it.

~Nora Ephron

Whenever someone says the words 'Our friendship is more important than this,' watch out, because it almost never is.

~Nora Ephron

That's your problem! You don't want to be in love. You want to be in love in a movie.

~Nora Ephron

I look as young as a person can look given how old I am.

~Nora Ephron

Believe me, if I looked good, it's not an accident.

~Nora Ephron

My closet is full of sad little scripts that didn't get made that have sad endings. It's very hard to get a movie made that has a sad ending.

~Nora Ephron

The divorce has lasted way longer than the marriage, but finally it's over.

~Nora Ephron

These days most women have jobs that last way too long. A lot of people in New York barely have time to get laid.

~Nora Ephron

I am not a new journalist, whatever that is. I just sit here at the

typewriter and bang away at the old forms.

~Nora Ephron

I'm really not interested in women as victims. Look at me, I get the last laugh â€˜cause I get to be funny about it.

~Nora Ephron

No one is more romantic than a cynic. I do think that you don't become cynical or 'unsentimental' unless there's a core of romanticism or sentiment that's had a few chips nicked into it.

~Nora Ephron

Success comes and goes. Your flops stay with you for life.

~Nora Ephron

I've always felt that one of the mistakes people make is that they try to do something that is just slightly beyond their skill set, and then feel they've failed.

~Nora Ephron

Journalists are interesting. They just aren't as interesting as the things they cover.

~Nora Ephron

Let's face it: part of being a grownup is that every day you have to choose between going out at night or staying home, and it is one of life's unhappy truths that there is not enough time to do both.

~Nora Ephron

The image of the journalist as wallflower at the orgy has been replaced by the journalist as the life of the party.

~Nora Ephron

Look at the parts the Oscar-nominated actresses played this year:

hooker, hooker, hooker, hooker, and nun.

~Nora Ephron

You can't meet someone until you become what you're becoming.

~Nora Ephron

American society has a remarkable ability to resist change, or to take whatever change has taken place and attempt to make it go away.

~Nora Ephron

It's much easier to get over someone if you can delude yourself into thinking you never really cared that much.

~Nora Ephron

The Wonderbra is not a step forward for women. Nothing that hurts that much is a step forward for women.

~Nora Ephron

People have only one way to be.

~Nora Ephron

You can't retrieve you life (unless you're on Wikipedia, in which case you can retrieve an inaccurate version of it).

~Nora Ephron

In the way that women forget the pain of childbirth, men forget that they cry in movies.

~Nora Ephron

That's another thing about being a certain age that I've noticed: I try as much as possible not to look in the mirror.

~Nora Ephron

It had better be quirky or perverse or thoughtful enough so that you hit

some chord in them. I mean we've all read pieces where we thought, 'Oh, who gives a damn.'

~Nora Ephron

What will happen to sex after liberation? Frankly, I don't know. It is a great mystery to all of us.

~Nora Ephron

The empty nest is underrated.

~Nora Ephron

My parents were screenwriters, and they had four daughters and we all write. So that's amazing. Talk about powerful parents. My mother always said to us, "Everything is copy."

~Nora Ephron

Having been married so many times, I know that one of the few things I am an expert in is falling in love.

~Nora Ephron

One of the best things about directing movies, as opposed to merely writing them, is that there's no confusion about who's to blame: You are.

~Nora Ephron

I have for many years been puzzled by the persistence of Hugh Hefner. Why is he still here?

~Nora Ephron

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