

# Simone de Beauvoir

## Quotes

*Men, Thinking, Writing, World, Children, Women, Sex, Believe, Feminist, Lying,  
Want, Would Be, Age, Mean, Giving, Time, Way, Doe, Two, Problem*

The point is not for women simply to take power out of men's hands, since that wouldn't change anything about the world. It's a question precisely of destroying that notion of power.

~Simone de Beauvoir

No one is more arrogant toward women, more aggressive or scornful, than the man who is anxious about his virility.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Change your life today. Don't gamble on the future, act now, without delay.

~Simone de Beauvoir

I am too intelligent, too demanding, and too resourceful for anyone to be able to take charge of me entirely. No one knows me or loves me completely. I have only myself

~Simone de Beauvoir

One's life has value so long as one attributes value to the life of others, by means of love, friendship, indignation and compassion.

~Simone de Beauvoir

All oppression creates a state of war.

~Simone de Beauvoir

To be free is not to have the power to do anything you like; it is to be able to surpass the given toward an open future.

~Simone de Beauvoir

When women act like women, they are accused of being inferior. When women act like human beings, they are accused of behaving like men.

~Simone de Beauvoir

I tore myself away from the safe comfort of certainties through my love

for truth - and truth rewarded me.

~Simone de Beauvoir

When I was a child, when I was an adolescent, books saved me from despair: that convinced me that culture was the highest of values[...].

~Simone de Beauvoir

As long as the family and the myth of the family ... have not been destroyed, women will still be oppressed.

~Simone de Beauvoir

The most mediocre of males feels himself a demigod as compared with women.

~Simone de Beauvoir

She was ready to deny the existence of space and time rather than admit that love might not be eternal.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Authentic love must be founded on reciprocal recognition of two freedoms. For each of them, love would be the revelation of the self through the gift of the self and the enrichment of the universe.

~Simone de Beauvoir

I am incapable of conceiving infinity, and yet I do not accept finity.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Buying is a profound pleasure.

~Simone de Beauvoir

I wish that every human life might be pure transparent freedom.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Every war, every revolution, demands the sacrifice of a generation, of a

collectivity, by those who undertake it.

~Simone de Beauvoir

To catch a husband is an art; to hold him is a job.

~Simone de Beauvoir

That's what I consider true generosity. You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.

~Simone de Beauvoir

You have to start from where you are today and from what can be done.

~Simone de Beauvoir

That is what chills your spine when you read an account of a suicide: not the frail corpse hanging from the window bars but what happened inside that heart immediately before.

~Simone de Beauvoir

It must be said in addition that the men with the most scrupulous respect for embryonic life are also those who are most zealous when it comes to condemning adults to death in war.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Few tasks are more like the torture of Sisyphus than housework, with its endless repetition: the clean becomes soiled, the soiled is made clean, over and over, day after day.

~Simone de Beauvoir

In itself, homosexuality is as limiting as heterosexuality: the ideal should be to be capable of loving a woman or a man; either, a human being, without feeling fear, restraint, or obligation.

~Simone de Beauvoir

What an odd thing a diary is: the things you omit are more important than those you put in.

~Simone de Beauvoir

If you live long enough, you'll see that every victory turns into a defeat.

~Simone de Beauvoir

It is not in giving life but in risking life that man is raised above the animal; that is why superiority has been accorded in humanity not to the sex that brings forth but to that which kills.

~Simone de Beauvoir

What is an adult? A child blown up by age.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Sex pleasure in woman is a kind of magic spell; it demands complete abandon; if words or movements oppose the magic of caresses, the spell is broken.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Marriage is a career which brings about more benefits than many others.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Youth and what the Italians so prettily call stamina. The vigor, the fire, that enables you to love and create. When you've lost that, you've lost everything.

~Simone de Beauvoir

I am incapable of conceiving infinity, and yet I do not accept finity. I want this adventure that is the context of my life to go on without end.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Society cares about the individual only in so far as he is profitable. The

young know this. Their anxiety as they enter in upon social life matches the anguish of the old as they are excluded from it.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Be loved, be admired, be necessary; be somebody.

~Simone de Beauvoir

There is only one good. And that is to act according to the dictates of one's conscience.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Man is defined as a human being and a woman as a female - whenever she behaves as a human being she is said to imitate the male.

~Simone de Beauvoir

It was easier for me to think of a world without a creator than of a creator loaded with all the contradictions of the world.

~Simone de Beauvoir

A man attaches himself to woman -- not to enjoy her, but to enjoy himself.

~Simone de Beauvoir

From the very beginning, existentialism defined itself as a philosophy of ambiguity.

~Simone de Beauvoir

To abstain from politics is in itself a political attitude.

~Simone de Beauvoir

It is in great part the anxiety of being a woman that devastates the feminine body.

~Simone de Beauvoir

The nearer I come to the end of my days, the more I am enabled to see that strange thing, a life, and to see it whole.

~Simone de Beauvoir

To be oneself, simply oneself, is so amazing and utterly unique an experience that it's hard to convince oneself so singular a thing happens to everybody.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Life is occupied in both perpetuating itself and in surpassing itself; if all it does is maintain itself, then living is only not dying.

~Simone de Beauvoir

I take on a shape and an existence only if I first throw myself into the world by loving, by doing.

~Simone de Beauvoir

It is in the knowledge of the genuine conditions of our lives that we must draw our strength to live and our reasons for living.

~Simone de Beauvoir

To give space when what one most yearns for is closeness, that is both the great test and great tragedy of love.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Representation of the world, like the world itself, is the work of men; they describe it from their own point of view, which they confuse with the absolute truth.

~Simone de Beauvoir

You have never had any confidence in him. And if he has no confidence in himself it is because he sees himself through your eyes.

~Simone de Beauvoir

There is something in the New York air that makes sleep useless.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Tonight, once more, life sinks its teeth into my heart.

~Simone de Beauvoir

The characteristic feature of all ethics is to consider human life as a game that can be won or lost and to teach man the means of winning.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Society, being codified by man, decrees that woman is inferior; she can do away with this inferiority only by destroying the male's superiority.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Women have been burnt as witches simply because they were beautiful.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Oppression tries to defend itself by its utility.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Self-knowledge is no guarantee of happiness, but it is on the side of happiness and can supply the courage to fight for it.

~Simone de Beauvoir

The body is not a thing, it is a situation: it is our grasp on the world and our sketch of our project

~Simone de Beauvoir

To make oneself an object, to make oneself passive, is a very different thing from being a passive object.

~Simone de Beauvoir

The ballot box is a most inadequate mechanism of change.



~Simone de Beauvoir

The curse which lies upon marriage is that too often the individuals are joined in their weakness rather than in their strength - each asking from the other instead of finding pleasure in giving.

~Simone de Beauvoir

I had never believed in the sacred nature of literature. God had died when I was fourteen.

~Simone de Beauvoir

There is only one solution if old age is not to be an absurd parody of our former life, and that is to go on pursuing ends that give our existence a meaning.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Old age is life's parody.

~Simone de Beauvoir

It's only arrogance if you're wrong.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Legislators, priests, philosophers, writers, and scientists have striven to show that the subordinate position of woman is willed in heaven and advantageous on earth.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Why one man rather than another? It was odd. You find yourself involved with a fellow for life just because he was the one that you met when you were nineteen.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Christian ideology has contributed no little to the oppression of woman.

~Simone de Beauvoir

...counselling man to treat her as a slave while persuading her that she is a queen.

~Simone de Beauvoir

I think that where you go wrong is that you imagine that your reasons for living ought to fall on you, ready-made from heaven, whereas we have to find them for ourselves.

~Simone de Beauvoir

This has always been a man's world, and none of the reasons that have been offered in explanation have seemed adequate.

~Simone de Beauvoir

The word love has by no means the same sense for both sexes, and this is one cause of the serious misunderstandings that divide them.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Whatever the country, capitalist or socialist, man was everywhere crushed by technology, made a stranger to his own work, imprisoned, forced into stupidity.

~Simone de Beauvoir

She would never change, but one day at the touch of a fingertip she would fall to dust.

~Simone de Beauvoir

One can not start by saying that our earthly destiny has or has not importance, for it depends upon us to give it importance.

~Simone de Beauvoir

The most sympathetic of men never fully comprehend woman's concrete situation.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Self-consciousness is not knowledge but a story one tells about oneself.

~Simone de Beauvoir

At the moment of their emancipation, women have a need to write their own histories.

~Simone de Beauvoir

I cannot be angry at God, in whom I do not believe.

~Simone de Beauvoir

But women do not say 'We', except at some congress of feminists or similar formal demonstration; men say 'women', and women use the same word in referring to themselves.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Many things would be changed for Americans if they would only admit that there is ill-luck in this world and that misfortune is not a priori a crime.

~Simone de Beauvoir

One is not born a genius, one becomes a genius; and the feminine situation has up to the present rendered this becoming practically impossible.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Patience is one of those feminine qualities which have their origin in our oppression but should be preserved after our liberation.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Defending the truth is not something one does out of a sense of duty or to allay guilt complexes, but is a reward in itself.

~Simone de Beauvoir

The writer of originality, unless dead, is always shocking, scandalous; novelty disturbs and repels.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Society cares for the individual only so far as he is profitable.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Each of us is responsible for everything and to every human being.

~Simone de Beauvoir

The emancipation of women must be the work of women themselves, independent of the class struggle.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Justice can never be done in the midst of injustice.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Retirement may be looked upon either as a prolonged holiday or as a rejection, a being thrown on to the scrap-heap.

~Simone de Beauvoir

A couple who go on living together merely because that was how they began, without any other reason: was that what we were turning into?

~Simone de Beauvoir

One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Capabilities are clearly manifested only when they have been realized.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Since it is the Other within us who is old, it is natural that the revelation of our age should come to us from outside --from others. We do not accept it willingly.

~Simone de Beauvoir

No existence can be validly fulfilled if it is limited to itself.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Only a woman can write what it is to feel as a woman, to be a woman.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Why does one exist? That's not my problem. One does exist. The thing to do is to take no notice but go at it on the run and to keep on going right on until you die.

~Simone de Beauvoir

The way I approached a question, my habit of mind, the way I looked at things, what I took for granted - all this was myself and it did not seem to me that I could alter it.

~Simone de Beauvoir

Art is an attempt to integrate evil.

~Simone de Beauvoir

To be moral is to discover fundamentally ones own being.

~Simone de Beauvoir

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