

THE
MARRIAGE
DELUSION

By the same author:

Two Men in a Car (A Businessman, a Chauffeur, and Their Holidays in France)
(LPS publishing, 2008)

Guitar Gods in Beds. (Bedfordshire: A Heavenly County)
(LPS publishing, 2008)

Profitable Buying Strategies: How to Cut Procurement Costs and Buy Your Way to Higher Profits
(Kogan Page, 2008)

T H E
MARRIAGE
D E L U S I O N
the fraud of the rings?

mike buchanan

lps publishing

publisher's note

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to realism

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INTRODUCTION

When two people are under the influence of the most violent, most insane, most delusive, and most transient of passions, they are required to swear that they will remain in that excited, abnormal, and exhausting condition continuously until death do them part.

(George Bernard Shaw, Preface to *The Doctor's Dilemma*)

THE MARRIAGE DELUSION AND THE
ISSUES UNDERMINING
MODERN MARRIAGE

Strange to say what delight we married people have to see these poor fools decoyed into our condition.

(Samuel Pepys, *Diary*, 25 December 1665)

MARRIAGE AND TRADITIONAL FAMILIES

Those who talk most about the blessings of marriage and the constancy of its vows are the very ones who declare that if the chain were broken and the prisoners were left free to choose, the whole social fabric would fly asunder. You can't have the argument both ways. If the prisoner is happy, why lock him in? If he isn't, why pretend that he is?

(George Bernard Shaw, *Man and Superman*)

THE DIFFERENT NATURES
OF MEN AND WOMEN

Hogamus, Higamous,
Man is polygamous.
Higamus, Hogamous,
Woman monogamous.

(William James, *Oxford Book of Marriage*)

PERSONALITY TYPES, INTROVERSION
AND EXTRAVERSION, GENETICS,
ADULTERY

I try my best to be just like I am,
But everybody wants you to be just like them.

(Bob Dylan, *Maggie's Farm*)

LOVE, LUST, SEX, FANTASY,
GENDER RANCOUR, ROMANTIC FICTION

Oh, life is a glorious cycle of song,
A medley of extemporanea;
And love is a thing that can never go wrong;
And I am Marie of Roumania.

(Dorothy Parker, *Comment*)

READINESS FOR MARRIAGE,
COMPATIBILITY, MARITAL DISHARMONY,
DEPRESSION AND PERSISTENCE,
PREDICTING OUTCOMES

For the first time since sudden love had thrown them into each other's arms, she had found herself beginning to wonder if her Blair was quite the godlike superman she had supposed. There even flashed through her mind a sinister speculation as to whether, when you came right down to it, he wasn't something of a pill.

(PG Wodehouse, *Hot Water*)

[Author's note: the above reflections are not attributable to Cherie Blair, wife of the former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair. Sorry.]

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

I suppose true sexual equality will come when a general called Anthea is found having an unwise lunch with a young, unreliable model from Spain.

(John Mortimer, *The Spectator*, 26 March 1994)

RELIGION

I've a definite sense of spirituality. I want Brooklyn to be christened, but don't know into what religion yet.

(David Beckham, *Daily Mail*, 5 September 2002)

THE LAW RELATING TO MARRIAGE
AND DIVORCE IN ENGLAND AND WALES,
ASSET DIVISION IN DIVORCE
SETTLEMENTS

I don't think I'll get married again. I'll just find a woman I don't like and give her a house.

(Rod Stewart)

THE FUTURE OF MARRIAGE

In all affairs it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted.

(Bertrand Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy*)

APPENDIX 1

THE LETTER TO
THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF RELATE

APPENDIX 2

THE LETTER TO
THE RT HON HARRIET HARMAN QC MP

APPENDIX 3

THE SEEKERS: A CASE STUDY OF COGNITIVE DISSONANCE

APPENDIX 4

PERSONALITY TYPES AND THE MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR®

APPENDIX 5

QUOTATIONS ABOUT LOVE, SEX, MARRIAGE . . .

(Sorted alphabetically by the surname of the speaker or the writer, or by the title of a show.)

‘Passion, sexual passion, may lead to marriage, but cannot sustain marriage. The purpose of marriage is the raising of children, for which patience, not passion, is the necessary foundation.’

Edward Abbey

‘Marriage, in life, is like a duel in the midst of a battle.’

Edmond About

‘Mrs Merton’ to Debbie McGee: ‘But what first, Debbie, attracted you to millionaire Paul Daniels?’

Caroline Aherne, *The Mrs Merton Show*

‘Sex without love is an empty experience, but as empty experiences go it’s one of the best.’

‘My wife was an immature woman . . . I would be home in the bathroom, taking a bath, and my wife would walk in whenever she felt like it and sink my boats.’

Woody Allen, ‘I Had a Rough Marriage’

‘Alcestis had exercised a mysterious attraction and then an unmysterious repulsion on two former husbands, the second of whom had to resort to fatal coronary disease to get away from her.’

Kingsley Amis

‘After a while marriage is a sibling relationship, marked by occasional, rather regrettable, episodes of incest.’

Martin Amis

Lady Astor: If you were my husband, Winston, I’d put poison in your tea.

Winston Churchill: If you were my wife, Nancy, I’d drink it.

‘I married beneath me. All women do.’

Nancy, Lady Astor

‘There is not one in a hundred of either sex who is not taken in when they marry. Look where I will, I see that it *is* so; and I feel that it *must* be so, when I consider that it is, of all transactions, the one in which people expect most from others, and are least honest themselves.’

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*

‘Whatever you do, keep clear of thin women. They’re trouble.’

Alan Ayckbourn, *A Small Family Business*

‘Spouses are impediments to great enterprises.’

Francis Bacon

‘Marriage must incessantly contend with a monster that devours everything: familiarity.’

Honoré de Balzac

‘I thought I told you to wait in the car.’

Tallulah Bankhead, greeting an ex-lover after several years

‘Love is just a system for getting someone to call you darling after sex.’

Julian Barnes, *Talking It Over*

‘You may marry the man of your dreams, ladies, but 14 years later you’re married to a couch that burps.’

‘Husbands think we should know where everything is – like the uterus is a tracking device. He asks me, “Roseanne, do we have any Cheetos left?” Like he can’t go over to that sofa cushion and lift it himself.’

‘My husband complained to me. He said, “I can’t remember when we last had sex.” And I said, “Well I can, and that’s why we ain’t doing it.”’

Roseanne Barr

‘Love . . . the delightful interval between meeting a beautiful girl and discovering that she looks like a haddock.’

John Barrymore

‘People keep asking me if I’ll marry again. It’s as if after you’ve had one car crash you want another.’

Stephanie Beacham

‘My notion of a wife at forty is that a man should be able to change her, like a bank note, for two twenties.’

Warren Beatty

‘The big difference between sex for money and sex for free is that sex for money usually costs a lot less.’

Brendan Behan

‘Never marry a man who hates his mother, because he’ll end up hating you.’

Jill Bennett

‘People shop for a bathing suit with more care than they do for a husband or wife. The rules are the same. Look for something you’ll feel comfortable wearing. Allow for room to grow.’

Erma Bombeck

‘It is ridiculous to think you can spend your entire life with just one person. Three is about the right number. Yes, I imagine three husbands would do it.’

Clare Boothe Luce

‘It is so far from being natural for a man and woman to live in a state of marriage, that we find all the motives which they have for remaining in that connection, and the restraints which civilised society imposes to prevent separation, are hardly sufficient to keep them together.’

James Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson*

‘Love is an obsessive delusion that is cured by marriage.’

Dr Karl Bowman

‘Marriage is the most advanced form of warfare in the modern world.’

‘The whole point of marriage is to stop you getting anywhere near real life. You think it’s a great struggle with the mystery of being. It’s more like being smothered in warm cocoa. There’s sex, but it’s not what you think. Marvellous, for the first fortnight. Then every Wednesday. If there isn’t a good late-night concert on the Third. Meanwhile you become a biological

functionary. An agent of the great female womb, spawning away, dumping its goods in your lap for succour. Daddy, daddy, we're here, and we're expensive.'

Malcolm Bradbury

'People marry for a variety of reasons, and with varying results; but to marry for love is to invite inevitable tragedy.'

James Branch Cabell

'I love it when my period comes round. I can really be *myself* again.'

'My ex-boyfriend came round last night which was a bit weird, because I didn't even know he was in a coma.'

Jo Brand

'Sex, on the whole, was meant to be short, nasty and brutish. If what you want is cuddling, you should buy a puppy.'

Julie Burchill, *Sex and Sensibility*

'I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.'

George Burns

'It was very good of God to let Carlyle and Mrs Carlyle marry one another and so make only two people miserable instead of four.'

Samuel Butler, letter of 21 November 1884

Cliff Clavin: How's married life treating ya? Quite a change, huh?

Frasier Crane: Well, Lilith and I did live together for a year before we wed, so other than the fact that I now see it stretching endlessly before me until I die rotting in the grave, there's no real difference.

John Ratzenberger and **Kelsey Grammar**, *Cheers*

'It's only adultery if you get caught!'

Thunderin' Paul Carrington

'You know what the difference is between a wife and a terrorist? You can negotiate with a terrorist.'

Frank Carson

'If variety is the spice of life, marriage is the big can of leftover Spam.'

Johnny Carson

Sam Malone: You know . . . you know I always wanted to pop you one? Maybe this is my lucky day, huh?
Diane Chambers: You disgust me. I hate you.
Sam: Are you as turned on as I am?
Diane: More.
Ted Danson and Shelley Long, *Cheers*

‘The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing – and then marry him.’

Cher

‘The pleasure is momentary, the position ridiculous, and the expense damnable.’

Lord Chesterfield on sex

‘Marriage is an adventure, like going to war.’

GK Chesterton

‘Many a man has fallen in love with a girl in a light so dim he would not have chosen a suit by it.’

Maurice Chevalier

‘My wife and I were married in a toilet. It was a marriage of convenience.’

Tommy Cooper

‘That married couples can live together day after day is a miracle the Vatican has overlooked.’

Bill Cosby

‘I’ve sometimes thought of marrying, and then I’ve thought again.’

Noel Coward

‘My wife and I were happy for 20 years. Then we met.’

‘When it comes to sex, at my age I like threesomes. In case one of us dies.’

‘We sleep in separate rooms, we have dinner apart, we take separate vacations – we’re doing everything we can to keep our marriage together.’

Rodney Dangerfield

'I'd marry again if I found a man who had 15 million dollars and would sign over half of it to me before the marriage, and guarantee that he'd be dead within a year.'

'I should never have married, but I didn't want to live without a man. Brought up to respect the conventions, love had to end in marriage. I'm afraid it did.'

Bette Davis

'My wife is a sex object. Every time I ask for sex, she objects.'

'Last year my wife ran off with the fellow next door and I must admit, I still miss him.'

Les Dawson

'The difficulty with marriage is that we fall in love with a personality, but must live with a character.'

Peter Devries

'The feminist movement seems to have beaten the manners out of men, but I didn't see them put up a lot of resistance.'

Clarissa Dickson Wright, *Mail on Sunday*, 24 September 2000

'I have always thought that every woman should marry, and no man.'

Lothair

'It destroys one's nerves to be amiable every day to the same human being.'

Benjamin Disraeli

'I've married a few people I shouldn't have, but haven't we all?'

Mamie van Doren

'Any intelligent woman who reads the marriage contract, and then goes into it, deserves all the consequences.'

Isadora Duncan

'They say marriages are made in heaven, but so are thunder and lightning.'

Clint Eastwood

‘Men marry women with the hope they will never change. Women marry men with the hope they will change. Invariably they are both disappointed.’

Albert Einstein

‘I would not marry God.’

Maxine Elliott, in a telegram denying rumours of her marriage

‘We were happily married for eight months. Unfortunately, we were married for four and a half years.’

Nick Faldo, on his ex-wife

‘I will not sulk about having no boyfriend, but develop inner poise and authority and sense of self as woman of substance, complete *without* boyfriend, as best way to obtain boyfriend.’

Helen Fielding, *Bridget Jones’s Diary*

‘Sex was for men. Marriage, like lifeboats, was for women and children.’

Carrie Fisher

Niles Crane: Are you *quite* finished undressing him with your eyes?

Roz Doyle: Oh, *please*. I’m already looking for my stockings and trying to remember where I parked my car.

David Hyde Pierce and **Peri Gilpin**, *Frasier*

‘How strange. I usually get some sign that Lilith is in town: dogs forming into packs, blood weeping from the walls.’

Niles Crane (**David Hyde Pierce**), *Frasier*

‘He taught me housekeeping; when we divorce I keep the house.’

‘A man in love is incomplete until he is married. Then he is finished.’

‘I want a man who’s kind and understanding. Is that too much to ask of a millionaire?’

‘I never hated a man enough to give him back his diamonds.’

‘A girl must marry for love, and keep on marrying until she finds it.’

Zsa Zsa Gabor

‘I cannot see myself as a wife. Ugly word.’

Greta Garbo

‘If love means never having to say you’re sorry, then marriage means always having to say everything twice.’

Estelle Getty

‘By god, DH Lawrence was right when he said there must be a dumb, dark, dull, bitter belly-tension between a man and a woman, and how else could this be achieved save in the long monotony of marriage?’

Stella Gibbons, *Cold Comfort Farm*

‘Love is an ideal thing; marriage is a real thing. A confusion of the real with the ideal never goes unpunished.’

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

‘Women are frightening. If you get to forty as a man, you’re quite battle-scarred.’

Hugh Grant

‘Women say they want a man who knows what a woman’s worth. That’s a pimp.’

Rich Hall

‘Marriage is like the witness protection programme: you get all new clothes, you live in the suburbs, and you’re not allowed to see your friends anymore.’

Jeremy Hardy

‘Pitt the Younger was a great British Prime Minister. He saved Europe from Napoleon, he was the pilot who weathered the storm. I don’t know whether he’d have done it any better or quicker had he been married.’

Edward Heath

‘If you want to sacrifice the admiration of many men for the criticism of one, go ahead. Get married.’

Katharine Hepburn

‘In a few years, no doubt, marriage licences will be sold like dog licences, good for 12 months.’

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

'I have learned that only two things are necessary to keep one's wife happy. First, let her think she's having her way. And second, to let her have it.'

Lyndon B Johnson

'Men and women. Women and men. It will never work.'

Erica Jong

'Only choose in marriage a woman whom you would choose as a friend if she were a man.'

Joseph Joubert

'Seldom or never does a marriage develop into an individual relationship smoothly and without crisis. There is no birth of consciousness without pain.'

Carl Jung

'Any woman who still thinks marriage is a fifty-fifty proposition is only proving that she doesn't understand either men or percentages.'

Florynce Kennedy

'I'm against gay marriage. I think marriage is a sacred union between a man and a pregnant woman.'

Craig Kilborn

'I love being married. I was single for a long time and I just got sick of finishing my own sentences.'

Brian Kiley

'The honeymoon is over when he phones to say he'll be late for supper and she's already left a note in the refrigerator.'

Bill Lawrence

'Not all women give most of their waking thoughts to the problem of pleasing men. Some are married.'

Emma Lee

'We do not squabble, fight or have rows. We collect grudges. We're in an arms race, storing up warheads for the domestic Armageddon.'

Hugh Leonard

‘Women do not find it difficult nowadays to behave like men, but they often find it extremely difficult to behave like gentlemen.’

Compton Mackenzie, *Literature in My Time*

‘I’m glad I’m not bisexual. I couldn’t stand being rejected by men as well as by women.’

Bernard Manning

‘We declare that love cannot exist between two people who are married to each other. For lovers give to each other freely, under no compulsion; married people are in duty bound to give in to each other’s desires.’

Marie, Countess of Champagne

‘I believe that sex is one of the most beautiful, natural, wholesome things that money can buy.’

Steve Martin

‘Politics doesn’t make strange bedfellows – marriage does.’

Groucho Marx

‘I never mind my wife having the last word. In fact, I’m delighted when she gets to it.’

Walter Matthau

‘No married man’s ever made up his mind until he’s heard what his wife has got to say about it.’

Sheppey

‘Dullness is the first requisite of a good husband.’

W Somerset Maugham, *Lady Frederick*

Wife: Mr Watt next door blows his wife a kiss every morning as he leaves the house. I wish you’d do that.

Husband: But I hardly know the woman!

Alfred McFote

‘We were making love in the back of a truck and we got carried away.’

Spike Milligan

‘I would like to be like my father and all the rest of my ancestors who never married.’

Molière

‘Husbands are chiefly good as lovers when they are betraying their wives.’

Marilyn Monroe

‘I have never had any great esteem for the generality of the fair sex, and my only consolation for being of that gender has been the assurance it gave me of never being married to anyone amongst them.’

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, letter to Mrs Calthorpe of 7 December 1723

‘A good marriage, if there is such a thing, rejects the company and conditions of love. It tries to imitate those of friendship.’

Michel de Montaigne

Eric: She’s a lovely girl . . . I’d like to marry her, but her family objects.

Ernie: Her family?

Eric: Yes, her husband and four kids.

Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise

‘It’s very slow. My favourite position is called “The Plumber”. You stay in all day, but nobody comes.’

John Mortimer, on Tantric sex

‘It has been said that a bride’s attitude towards her betrothed can be summed up in three words: Aisle, Altar, Hymn.’

Frank Muir, *Upon My Word!*

‘One doesn’t have to get anywhere in a marriage. It’s not a public conveyance.’

Iris Murdoch, *A Severed Head*

‘To keep your marriage brimming,
With love in the loving cup,
Whenever you’re wrong, admit it;
Whenever you’re right, shut up.’

Ogden Nash

‘Marriage is based on the theory that when a man discovers a brand of beer exactly to his taste he should at once throw up his job and go to work in a brewery.’

George Jean Nathan

‘If married couples did not live together, happy marriages would be more frequent.’

‘At the beginning of a marriage ask yourself whether this woman will be interesting to talk to from now until old age. Everything else in marriage is transitory: most of the time is spent in conversation.’

Friedrich Nietzsche

‘Feminism is the result of a few ignorant and literal-minded women letting the cat out of the bag about which is the superior sex.’

Modern Manners

‘There are a number of mechanical devices which increase sexual arousal, especially in women. Chief among these is the Mercedes-Benz 380SL convertible.’

‘Staying married may have long-term benefits. You can elicit much more sympathy from friends over a bad marriage than you ever can from a good divorce.’

PJ O’Rourke

‘Women: you can’t live with them, and you can’t get them to dress up in a skimpy Nazi uniform and beat you with a warm squash.’

Emo Philips

‘Love is a reciprocity of soul and has a different end and obeys different laws from marriage. Hence one should not take the loved one to wife.’

Alessandro Piccolomini

‘Marriage is really tough because you have to deal with feelings and lawyers.’

Richard Pryor

‘My sex life has gone from bad to pathetic. My G spot stands for godforsaken.’

Joan Rivers

‘There are some good marriages, but practically no delightful ones.’

Francois de La Rochefoucauld

‘Sex is like art. Most of it is pretty bad, and the good stuff is out of your price range.’

‘There’s only one problem with wife swapping. You get another wife.’

Scott Roeben

‘I think every woman is entitled to a middle husband she can forget.’

Adela Rogers St John

‘Passion and marriage are essentially irreconcilable. Their origins and their ends make them mutually exclusive. Their co-existence in our midst constantly raises insoluble problems, and the strife thereby engendered constitutes a persistent danger for every one of our social safeguards.’

Denis de Rougemont

‘Marriage is the only thing that affords a woman the pleasure of company and the perfect sensation of solitude at the same time.’

Personally Speaking

‘A husband is what is left of a lover, after the nerve has been extracted.’

A Guide to Men

‘Before marriage, a man declares that he would lay down his life to serve you; after marriage, he won’t even lay down his newspaper to talk to you.’

‘In olden times sacrifices were made at the altar – a practice which is still continued.’

Helen Rowland

‘I love being married. It’s so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.’

‘My boyfriend and I broke up. He wanted to get married and I didn’t want him to.’

Rita Rudner

‘Marriage? It’s like asparagus eaten with vinaigrette or hollandaise, a matter of taste but no importance.’

Françoise Sagan

‘In our part of the world where monogamy is the rule, to marry means to halve one’s rights and double one’s duties.’

Arthur Schopenhauer

‘What God hath joined together no man shall put asunder: God will take care of that.’

‘Changeable women are more endurable than monotonous ones. They are sometimes murdered but seldom deserted.’

‘It is most unwise for people in love to marry.’

‘The fickleness of the women I love is only equalled by the infernal constancy of the women who love me.’

The Philanderer

‘The ideal love affair should be conducted by post.’

George Bernard Shaw

‘Even under the best of circumstances men are hard creatures to trap. Women who flatter themselves into thinking they’ve trapped one are like people who believe they can get rid of the cockroaches in their kitchen. They’re in for a big surprise late one night when they turn on the light.’

Harry Shearer

‘A system could not well have been devised more studiously hostile to human happiness than marriage.’

Percy Bysshe Shelley, Notes to ‘Queen Mab’

‘Nothing anybody tells you about marriage helps.’

Max Siegel

‘Take care of him. And make him feel important. And if you can do that, you’ll have a happy and wonderful marriage. Like two out of every ten couples.’

Neil Simon, *Barefoot in the Park*

Marge Simpson: Homer, is this how you pictured marriage?

Homer Simpson: Yeah, pretty much, except we drove around in a van and solved mysteries.

The Simpsons

‘For millions of years, we men have been able to get away with being useless fathers, doing nothing around the house, and being terrible in bed. Now we’re expected to be brilliant at all those things. It’s so unfair.’

Arthur Smith

'I'd like to get married because I like the idea of a man being required by law to sleep with me every night.'

Carrie Snow

'Women: you can't live with them, you can't live without them. That's probably why you can rent one for the evening.'

Jim Stark

'We are becoming the men we wanted to marry.'

Gloria Steinem, *Ms*

'The most memorable is always the current one. The rest just merge into a sea of blondes.'

Rod Stewart

'Venus, a beautiful, good-natured lady, was the goddess of love; Juno, a terrible shrew, the goddess of marriage: and they were always mortal enemies.'

Jonathan Swift

'If love is the answer, could you rephrase the question?'

Lily Tomlin

'There is no road to wealth so easy and respectable as that of matrimony.'

Anthony Trollope, *Doctor Thorne*

'You can't bring logic into this. We're talking about marriage. Marriage is like the Middle East. There's no solution.'

Shirley Valentine-Bradshaw (Pauline Collins), *Shirley Valentine*

'When once a woman has given you her heart, you can never get rid of the rest of her body.'

John Vanburgh, *The Relapse*

'I feel sure that no girl could go to the altar, and would probably refuse, if she knew all.'

'The Queen is most anxious to enlist every one who can speak or write to join in checking this mad, wicked folly of 'Woman's Rights', with all its attendant horrors, on which her poor feeble sex is bent, forgetting every sense of womanly feeling and propriety.'

Queen Victoria, letter to Theodore Martin of 29 May 1870

‘Take it from me, marriage isn’t a word. It’s a *sentence*.’

King Vidor

‘He is dreadfully married. He’s the most married man I ever saw in my life.’

Artemus Ward, *Artemus Ward’s Lecture*

Interviewer: Aren’t you forgetting you’re married?

Mae West: Hmmm – I’m doing my best.

‘Marriage is a great institution, but I’m not ready for an institution.’

Mae West

‘Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult.’

Charlotte Whitton, *Canada Month*

‘Marriage is a bribe to make a housekeeper think she’s a householder.’

Thornton Wilder

‘Women: you can’t live with them . . . end of sentence.’

Jack McFarland (Sean Hayes), *Will and Grace*

‘In Hollywood, all the marriages are happy. It’s trying to live together afterwards that causes all the problems.’

Shelley Winters

‘Chumps always make the best husbands. When you marry, Sally, grab a chump. Tap his forehead first, and if it rings solid, don’t hesitate. All the unhappy marriages come from the husbands having brains.’

The Adventures of Sally

‘I was in rare fettle and the heart had touched a new high. I don’t know anything that braces one up like finding you haven’t got to get married after all.’

PG Wodehouse, *Jeeves in the Offing*

[Author’s note: PG Wodehouse, creator of the aristocratic Bertie Wooster and his butler Jeeves among much else, was one of the finest humorous writers in the English language. To my mind *the* finest. He wrote almost 100 books, numerous short stories, 250 lyrics for 30 musical comedies,

and 15 plays. All this in the era of manual typewriters. They don't make them like PG Wodehouse any more.

He was, by all accounts, an *extremely* introverted man. After he and his wife moved to New York he asked her to start looking for apartments to buy, but insisted that she only look at ground floor apartments. When she asked him why, he replied, 'Because I never know *what* to say to the lift boy!']

'He had been building one of those piles of thought, as ramshackle and fantastic as a Chinese pagoda, half from words let fall by gentlemen in gaiters, half from the litter in his own mind, about duck shooting and legal history, about the Roman occupation of Lincoln and the relations of country gentlemen with their wives, when, from all this disconnected rambling, there suddenly formed itself in his mind the idea that he would ask Mary to marry him.'

Virginia Woolf

'I have certainly seen more men destroyed by the desire to have a wife and child and to keep them in comfort than I have seen destroyed by drink or harlots.'

WB Yeats

'Do you know what it means to come home at night to a woman who'll give you a little love, a little affection, a little tenderness? It means you're in the wrong house, that's what it means.'

Henny Youngman

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