



And with legends and life stories of some of the most famous amorous women included in each chapter, you'll be inspired as well as entertained. Love has always been a part of our lives; keep embracing its wildness and add your own stories to those that have come before!



Each of us is born with a box of matches inside us, but we can't strike them all by ourselves.

—Laura Esquivel, *Like Water for Chocolate*



If they substituted the word "Lust" for "Love" in the popular songs, it would come nearer the truth.

—Sylvia Plath, *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*



The young habitually mistake lust for love, they're infested with idealism of all kinds.

—Margaret Atwood, *The Blind Assassin*



Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.

—Maya Angelou, distinguished poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist



Lust is what keeps you wanting to do it even when you have no desire to be with each other. Love is what makes you want to be with each other even when you have no desire to do it.

—Judith Viorst, journalist and psychoanalytic researcher



...Dreaming that love will save us, solve all our problems, or provide a steady state of bliss or security only keeps us stuck in wishful fantasy, undermining the real power of the love—which is to transform us.

—**Bell Hooks**, revolutionary author, feminist, and social activist



Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need.

—**Mary Baker Eddy**, founder of the Church of Christ, Scientist



The greatest science in the word, in heaven and earth, is love.

—**Mother Teresa**, philanthropic missionary nun



Never let a problem to be solved become more important than a person to be loved.

—**Barbara Johnson**, feminist literary critic, translator, and scholar



Badass Clare Boothe Luce: Luce Cannon

Clare Boothe Luce, “the woman with the serpent’s tongue,” was the anti-Eleanor Roosevelt, a sort of alternate universe doppelganger who used her razor-sharp wit to oppose while “faintly praising” the First Lady and other unrepentant New Dealers. A virulent Republican and FDR basher, Clare was both a smart and tough cookie, albeit not to everyone’s taste. Clare, however, had a wholly unique way of asserting her woman power.



Love never reasons but profusely gives, like a thoughtless prodigal, it's all, and trembles lest it has done too little.

—**Hannah More**, poet, playwright, religious writer, and philanthropist



Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place.

—**Zora Neale Hurston**, novelist, folklorist, and anthropologist



Love is a game that two can play and both win.

—**Eva Gabor**, Hungarian-born actress, comedian, and singer



Badass Women Who Followed Their Bliss All the Way

Of Cockpits, Cocks and Bulls, and Other “Ladylike” Pursuits

Adalynn (Jonnie) Jonckowski: This card-carrying member of the cowgirl hall of fame has an unusual idea of a good time—hopping on the back of an angry bull and hanging on as long as possible. Called the “Belle of Billings” (Montana), she has repeatedly proved to be the world’s best bull rider. Adalynn’s winning attitude is evidenced here, “Any time you have the freedom to do what you want to do and exercise that freedom, you’re a champ.”

While Jonnie Jonckowski clings to the backs of angry Brahma bulls, Julie Krone has her own wild rides. Petite and determined, Julie Krone was the first female jockey to win the Triple Crown, a race at the Belmont Stakes. She has shown that women can ride the winning race and has \$54 million worth of purses to show for it. (Jockeys keep 10 percent of the take, quite a motivator!)



Who so loves, believes the impossible.

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning, immortal English
Victorian poet



*Love is not love if it is compelled by reason
and driven by logic—love exists in spite of those
things, not because of them.*

—Julia Cameron, artist, poet, playwright, filmmaker, and
composer, known for *The Artist's Way*



*That Love is all there is,
Is all we know of Love.*

—Emily Dickinson, reclusive yet immortal poet



Love, Marriage, and What Comes After

We've all heard the saying; whether we like it or not, the two do seem to go together. From rhapsodizing about the lasting joys to bitching about the equally consistent irritations, women have the corner on marriage talk. The sampling below is nowhere near everything we could have said!



*The married are those who have taken the
terrible risk of intimacy, and having taken it,
know life without intimacy to be impossible.*

—Carolyn Heilbrun, feminist author and pioneering
professor at Columbia





CHAPTER 2

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*Love, Lust, and What
We Wore*

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You won't find two things that rule the world more than lust or love. Whether it's a lust for power or a hunger for a romantic love, these emotions find their places in everyone's thoughts. And women are no exemption. Just like anyone, we wrestle with the same feelings, pining after that hot guy at the bar the other night, or the friend who is turning into more than a friend. There's a thin line between love and lust, and we all try to find it with our significant others while also balancing everything else in our lives.

But whether you are reclusive or entirely open about your experiences with love and lust, it's hard to deny the frustration that can come from experiencing these emotions. We've all had to endure the "oh, it's that time of the month" comments, or the dreadful "let's talk about us" comments. All because for some reason we feel the need to be loved, or get caught up in lustful longings.

Well, these women have felt the same frustration, experienced the same difficulties in their own love lives, and lived to tell the story. Read on for quotes that will make you appreciate your own love all the more, and to find someone who put into words exactly how you feel about that one you can't get over.





Personally, I like sex, and I don't care what a man thinks of me as long as I get what I want from him—which is usually sex.

—Valerie Perrine, film actress, Vegas showgirl, and public nudity pioneer



If men knew what women laughed about, they would never sleep with us.

—Erica Jong, controversial novelist and poet



Everybody should practice safe sex. 'Cause nobody wants to be doing it and put an eye out.

—Emmy Gay, feminist "Fusion Art" comedian



Women complain about sex more than men. Their gripes fall into two major categories: (1) Not enough. (2) Too much.

—Ann Landers, nationally known advice columnist



For women the best aphrodisiacs are words. The G-spot is in the ears. He who looks for it below there is wasting his time.

—Isabel Allende, noted Chilean-American "magic realism" author





FOREWORD

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'Tis true, badass women do give the very best advice. For one thing, they have undoubtedly seen it all, “been there, done that,” and learned from the necessary life experiences that qualify you to wear the badge of honor of a badass woman. Badass women are fiercely independent and dance to the beat of their own drum whether anybody else likes it or not. The friendly stranger who noticed you’re having a wardrobe malfunction while on your first date and pulled you into the ladies’ room like she was your personal stylist? She’s a badass. The single attorney mom who drives her kids and yours to both ballet and soccer, then heads off to sing in her own punk band? Awesomely badass and doubtless the attorney you’ll want to call upon when in need. The recent college grad who refused to get her male boss coffee on her first day of work? Total badass and future SHE-EO of her own startup. Badass women are all around and are exemplars of how to live on your own terms, fully and unabashedly. We can all learn a lot from these fabulous females and live a happier life thanks to the wisdom of these wild and wonderful women.

Now go out and kick some ass!

Trina Robbins