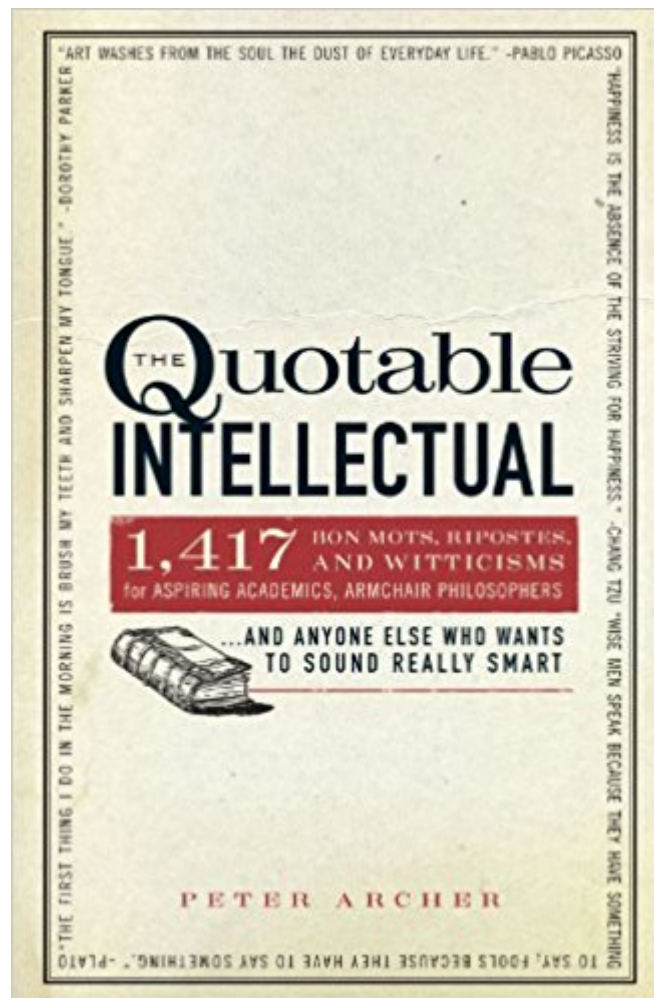


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The Quotable Intellectual: 1,417 Bon Mots, Ripostes, And Witticisms For Aspiring Academics, Armchair Philosophers, And Anyone Else Who Wants To Sound Really Smart





Synopsis

Have you ever wanted to be an intellectual, without all that tedious work of getting an advanced college degree? Here's your shortcut to the world of the well read. Just open this collection of 1,417 quotations from the mouths of the wildly famous to the painfully obscure, and voila!--instant erudition. It doesn't take much to sound as if you know what you're talking about. Just toss off some time-tested wisdom from Henry James or Plotinus . . . or, if you're feeling daring, a line or two of poetry from Byron. In no time at all you'll be sipping a glass of Madeira, sampling imported Gouda, and bragging about your collection of first edition Vonneguts. Just like an intellectual.

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Customer Reviews

Peter Archer is an editor at Adams Media. He subscribes to the New Yorker, the Economist, and the New York Review of Books; keeps a copy of Dante's Divine Comedy on his nightstand; and has an M.Litt. from the University of St. Andrews. Which makes him as much of a pseudointellectual as he needs to be to write this book.

I REALLY enjoyed this book. I am a person that loves to read all kinds of quotes. This book has a bunch and plenty that I haven't heard of. It's divided into topics from Marriage, Friendship, Business, Technology, Love, War, Death, Religion...etc and provides a cool amount of quotes that are then divided as being positive on the subject and then negative. Good read and I guess it can help you sound very smart if you can memorize a few and integrate them into a normal conversation.

I recently hosted a birthday party and each table was a different theme, one was books. For favors I made 8 different bookmarks-each with at least 10 "quotes" on them. I got almost all of quotes from "Quotable Intellectual". It was great and more than fulfilled my needs. It was a wonderful resource. I recommend it to anyone who likes quotes and their sources.

I had hope to receive a copy like the one I saw with a hard copy not the paper back issue.

It is both original and witty, but the witty part is not original, and the original is not witty but pretentious and boring.

I wish there were more books like this one out there! It's good to know that there are still intelligent and witty people out there like Peter Archer. There is a quote in this book for every occasion and using them in my every day life is a new favorite pastime and something to entertain and amuse friends and co-workers alike.

I don't even remember how I wound up with this book, but I like these sorts of quotes because they provide a kind of condensed insight. And this particular book offers the benefit of organizing quotes into many categories, so that you can compare and contrast different views on the same topic. I did just that, taking considerable time to get through the book, and I took the further step of trying to condense all of the quotes on each topic into a single quote of my own - a sort of meta or hyper condensation, if you will. The results turned out better than I expected, and I've presented them below, so reading the book was worthwhile for me and I can recommend it.***Art is perceptive or creative. It may represent the self, ideas, or reality. It may please, intrigue, edify, or otherwise influence us. Our lives can be works of art.Of all forms of art, architecture has perhaps the greatest aspirations and pretensions. But that means it sometimes also has the most noticeable failures.A good movie will transport the viewer into another reality and will strongly shape their flow of moods and feelings. To do so, it may exaggerate aspects of reality. Because of its immediacy, theater can take all of this even further than movies.Poetry aims to express, via artful use of words and word structures, that which is important but never fully expressible. As a result, poetry is typically ambiguous and often misinterpreted.Music, because of its abstractness, perhaps comes closest to expressing that which is inexpressible. Beyond it, we must remain silent.Language fundamentally shapes us and we shape it, across the entire spectrum from rudimentary communication to our

highest expressions. Each particular language reflects the historical drift of this dialectic and the history of the associated culture. Science is the adventure of exploring our strange universe in an evolving effort to understand it (and thus also ourselves), using perceptive observation, common sense, imagination, creativity, and an open mind, balanced against also trying to be skeptical and objective. The remarkable (and lucky) success of science shows that order exists (as attested by applicability of sophisticated mathematics), though science fosters knowledge more than wisdom, perhaps to risky excess. Mathematics is a vast and beautiful universe unto itself, full of precise order and yet also somewhat mysterious. Those gifted with the right type of intellect are able to explore this mathematical universe and, if they choose, also explore the often remarkable ways in which it relates to the physical universe. Those with a philosophical bent can also ponder the ultimate source of this mathematical universe and its consonance with the physical universe. Politics is a dirty business and thus tends to attract the wrong people. It's divisive, wasteful, and even sometimes destructive. But it's also something we can't live without, often entertaining, and even capable of getting some useful things done. War has always been part of human history as a means to attempt to settle differences, and we may have an instinctive drive for it, so we may continue to engage in war in the future. But war is also a vile and destructive human failing which now threatens the survival of the entire human species. The study of history has value, but only limited value - it can contextualize and help instruct, but it can also mislead. And the writing of history, even when aiming at truth, always involves subjective selections and distortions. We need participation in love more than anything else, and love is very powerful. Yet love is also fragile, and its loss or absence can harm us more than anything other than death itself. Marriage is a great source of either misery or happiness, with little middle ground. Choose your partner wisely, and recognize that much skill, hard work, and goodwill will be needed to succeed in marriage. True friendship is essential to having a good life. It requires a consonance between two souls which is rare, and it must be handled with loving care, but its value in good times and bad is beyond compare. Knowledge is more important than learning, and usually better than ignorance, though recognition of one's ignorance is also an important kind of knowledge. Wisdom is the most important kind of knowledge. Knowledge is difficult to attain, wisdom even more so, and neither can ever be attained completely, though they can be continually expanded, sometimes with unexpected discoveries. Power inherently tries to increase its magnitude and extend its reach wherever it can. And it inherently tends to corrupt those who exercise it, so great virtue and wisdom are needed to exercise power benevolently. Sources of power include knowledge, self-control, and a desire to control others. Power can be diminished when it overreaches and elicits a backlash. The process of growing old is bittersweet, and not

infrequently accompanied by regrets. But a bittersweet existence is still better than none at all. We must view money with ambivalence, or at least deal with the issue very carefully. It can foster security, freedom, generosity, and pleasure, but it can also be addictive and foster arrogance, shallowness, corruption, and jealousy. Sex is almost irresistible and can afford unique pleasure, yet it can also be crude, disappointing, and a means to bring together incompatible people. Ideally, education will benefit both individuals and society. For the individual, good education can foster vitality, curiosity, rationality, discipline, open-mindedness, tolerance, intellectual liberation, creativity, knowledge, wealth, self-confidence, and even wisdom. For society, good education can foster transmission of culture and progress. Bad education can not only fail to provide these benefits, but even make things worse. Fame without merit tends to be fleeting and bad. Merit without fame is usually tolerable, and sometimes even preferable. Fame based on merit can be very satisfying, but can also be a great burden for people who didn't aspire to fame in the first place. Though it must be respected and isn't without dangers, nature is an irreplaceable path to serenity, renewal, beauty, and possibly even the divine. We have an instinct to view animals as our kin and treat them with corresponding care. And thus when we mistreat animals, we harm and degrade ourselves as well, by descending to moral and spiritual lows. Business involves a scary struggle with both motivated competitors and an uncertain and dynamic future, within the constraint of trying to remain ethical. This is why business leaders must have courage, must aim to be better than their rivals, and must be propelled and guided by a clear and inspiring vision which is deeply shared by the entire organization, while still flexible enough to change with the times. High technology is seductive and pervasive, and opens up new personal and social vistas, but it's also unnatural, fosters intellectual shallowness, is unpredictable, and may ultimately prove to be our undoing. At its best, religion has the potential to make people and life significantly better. But people tend to be superficial in their acceptance and implementation of religion, so religion often makes things worse, sometimes much worse. An alternative is for us to aspire to be virtuous without religion, because virtue is apparently good in itself. Humans must struggle with the prospect of death perhaps more than any other issue. Some people find perspectives to come to terms with death, or even look forward it, while others continue to view it with fear and indignation. Regardless, one lesson to be learned is that our lives are finite, so we must strive to live fully, not wasting even a single day. We don't know whether we'll have an afterlife and, if so, what it would be like. Arguably, a being that can contemplate profound questions so deeply won't be simply extinguished by death but, still, there's no certainty. As a backup alternative to a material or spiritual afterlife, we can strive for immortality in the way our lives permanently change the world, though that won't necessarily be for the better. Happiness is a quite

contented state of mind which is a byproduct of how we live, not something which can be effectively pursued directly. The key is to align what we want with what we have, by changing one or both of them. And wants and have's apply to all dimensions of our lives: health, relationships, social and career status, wealth, material things, etc.

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