

Monroe, Marilyn



Marilyn Monroe (born Norma Jeane Mortenson, June 1, 1926 – August 5, 1962) was an American actress and model. Famous for playing "dumb blonde" characters, she became one of the most popular sex symbols of the 1950s, emblematic of the era's attitudes towards sexuality. Although she was a top-billed actress for only a decade, her films grossed \$200 million by the time of her unexpected death in 1962. She continues to be considered a major popular culture icon. By 1953, Monroe was one of the most bankable Hollywood stars, with leading roles in three films: the noir "Niagara", which focused on her sex appeal, and the comedies "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and "How to Marry a Millionaire", which established her star image as a "dumb blonde". Although she played a significant role in the creation and management of her public image throughout her career, she was disappointed at being typecast and underpaid by the studio. She was briefly suspended in early 1954 for refusing a film project, but returned to star in one of the biggest box office successes of her career, "The Seven Year Itch" (1955). When the studio was still reluctant to change her contract, Monroe founded a film production company in late 1954, Marilyn Monroe Productions (MMP). She dedicated 1955 to building her company and began studying method acting at the Actors' Studio. In late 1955, Fox gave her a new contract, which gave her more control and a larger salary. After giving a critically acclaimed performance in "Bus Stop" (1956) and acting in the first independent production of MMP, "The Prince and the Showgirl" (1957), she won a Golden Globe for Best Actress for "Some Like It Hot" (1959). Her last completed film was the drama "The Misfits" (1961).

Monroe's troubled private life received much attention. She struggled with addiction, depression, and anxiety. She had two highly publicized marriages, to baseball player Joe DiMaggio and playwright Arthur Miller, which both ended in divorce. She died at the age of 36 from an overdose of barbiturates at her home in Los Angeles on August 5, 1962. Although the death was ruled a probable suicide, several conspiracy theories have been proposed in the decades following her death.

"I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes; I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best."

"I believe that everything happens for a reason. People change so that you can learn to let go; things go wrong so that you appreciate them when they're right. You believe lies so you eventually learn to trust no one but yourself, and sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together."

"Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius - and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring."

"This life is what you make it. No matter what, you're going to mess up sometimes; it's a universal truth. But the good part is you get to decide how you're going to mess it up. Girls will be your friends - they'll act like it anyway. But just remember, some come, some go. The ones that stay with you through everything - they're your true best friends. Don't let go of them. Also remember, sisters make the best friends in the world. As for lovers, well, they'll come and go too. And baby, I hate to say it, most of them - actually pretty much all of them - are going to break your heart, but you can't give up because if you give up, you'll never find your soulmate. You'll never find that half who makes you whole and that goes for everything. Just because you fail once, doesn't mean you're gonna fail at everything. Keep trying, hold on, and always, always, always believe in yourself, because if you don't, then who will, sweetie? So keep your head high, keep your chin up, and most importantly, keep smiling, because life's a beautiful thing and there's so much to smile about."

"If you're gonna be two-faced, at least make one of them pretty."

"We should all start to live before we get too old. Fear is stupid. So are regrets."

"I've never fooled anyone. I've let people fool themselves. They didn't bother to find out who and what I was. Instead they would invent a character for me. I wouldn't argue with them. They were obviously loving somebody I wasn't."

"All little girls should be told they are pretty, even if they aren't."

"It's not true that I had nothing on. I had the radio on."

"We are all of us stars, and we deserve to twinkle."

"Success makes so many people hate you. I wish it wasn't that way. It would be wonderful to enjoy success without seeing envy in the eyes of those around you."

"The real lover is the man who can thrill you by kissing your forehead or smiling into your eyes or just staring into space."

"Beneath the makeup and behind the smile I am just a girl who wishes for the world."

"Dogs never bite me, just humans."

"If I'd observed all the rules I'd never have got anywhere."

"Keep smiling, because life is a beautiful thing and there's so much to smile about."

All a girl really wants is for one guy to prove to her that they are not all the same."

"Wanting to be someone else is a waste of the person you are."

"Boys think girls are like books; if the cover doesn't catch their eye they won't bother to read what's inside."

"I have feelings, too. I am still human. All I want is to be loved, for myself and for my talent. "

"I'm not interested in money; I just want to be wonderful."

"What do I wear in bed? Why, Chanel No. 5, of course"

"Hollywood is a place where they'll pay you a thousand dollars for a kiss and fifty cents for your soul. I know, because I turned down the first offer often enough and held out for the fifty cents."

"If I play a stupid girl and ask a stupid question, I've got to follow it through, what am I supposed to do, look intelligent?"

"A sex symbol becomes a thing. I hate being a thing."

"Dreaming about being an actress, is more exciting then being one."

"Some people have been unkind. If I say I want to grow as an actress, they look at my figure. If I say I want to develop, to learn my craft, they laugh. Somehow they don't expect me to be serious about my work."

"I've often stood silent at a party for hours listening to my movie idols turn into dull and little people. "

"No one ever told me I was pretty when I was a little girl. All little girls should be told they're pretty, even if they aren't."

"A wise girl knows her limits, a smart girl knows that she has none."

"Suicide is a person's privilege. I don't believe it's a sin or a crime; it's your right if you do - though it doesn't get you anywhere."

"They will only care when you're gone."

"I am not a victim of emotional conflicts. I am human."

"I'm a failure as a woman. My men expect so much of me, because of the image they've made of me - and that I've made of myself -as a sex symbol. They expect bells to ring and whistles to whistle, but my anatomy is the same as any other woman's, and I can't live up to it."

"I don't forgive people because I'm weak; I forgive them because I am strong enough to know people make mistakes."