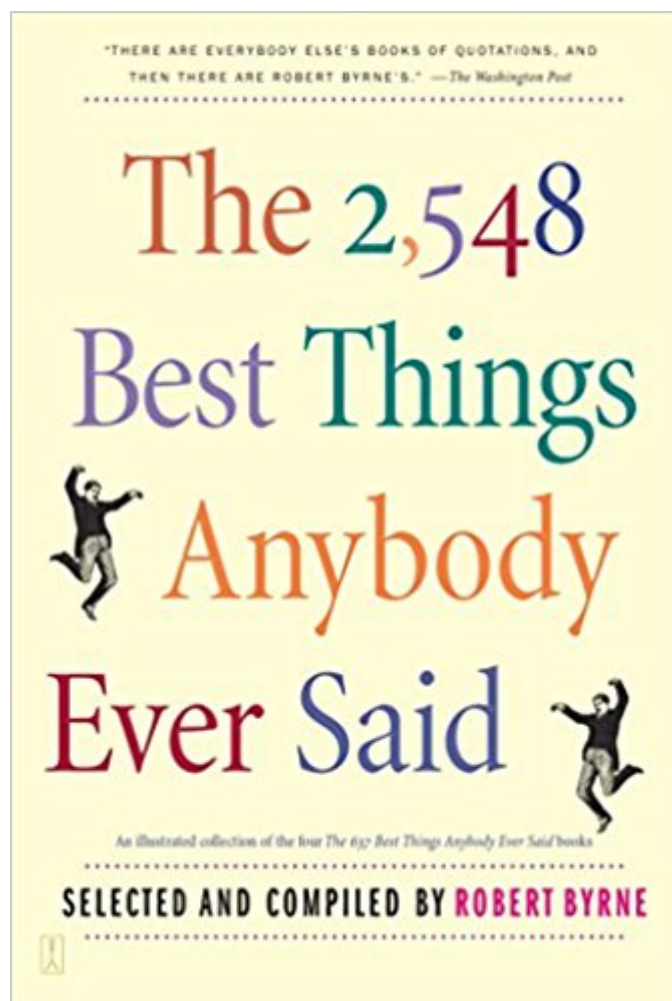


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The 2,548 Best Things Anybody Ever Said



Synopsis

Drawing from diverse personages -- Goethe to Churchill to Woody Allen -- Robert Byrne has mined a collection of wit and wisdom that deserves a special place on every humor lover's bookshelf.

These unique, witty, and outrageous quotations, previously published in four separate volumes, are now gathered together in a seemingly limitless trove of pithy and often irreverent one-liners, retorts, put-downs, jokes, and last words that cover every conceivable subject and will appeal to every taste. Highlights include: "Start every day with a smile and get it over with." -- W. C. Fields "Men read maps better than women because only men understand that an inch can equal a hundred miles." -- Roseanne Barr "Happiness is having a large loving family in another city." -- George Burns

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Byrne is the author of seven novels, five collections of humorous quotations, seven books on billiards, and an exposé of frauds in the literary world. Byrne was born and raised in Dubuque, Iowa, where he has a regular humor column in the >. Visit his website at www.byrne.org.

Introduction The quotes you hold in your hand first saw the light of day as four separate collections of 637 each. Five years ago, the four appeared as an anthology of the 2,548 best things anybody ever said with four introductions and four indexes of sources, authors, and key words. If you were looking for something on a particular subject or by a favorite wag, if you were trying to track down a half-remembered line, you had four places to look. In this new edition, the introductions and ref-

erence lists have been combined into one and the quotes are numbered from 1 to 2,548, not four times from 1 to 637. The streamlining will enable many readers, writers, and speakers to more easily feign a sense of humor where none exists. Why 2,548 quotes instead of, say, 2,547? I didn't want to leave a good one out. Why not 2,549? I didn't want any padding. The goal was simply to compile the best (funniest) things ever said (or written), zingers that can be used in everyday life without the odor of pomposity. Look elsewhere for rosy words of uplift or inspiration, unless you are uplifted and inspired by lines more appropriate for performers than pontificators. A serious attempt was made to eliminate the chaff and retain only the wheat, which is to say that you should be able to open the book to any page and be glad you did. Many of the quotes are clustered by subject, but the subjects aren't ordered according to the alphabet. It struck me as logical, for example, to follow remarks about Love with those about Sex, Wedlock, Self-Abuse, Kids, Drink, and Death, in that order. In most books of this kind, Sex is followed by such unrelated topics as Shakespeare, Sickness, and Socialism and there is no category for Self-Abuse at all. I feel bad about most of the quotes attributed to celebrities, for in almost every case, I'm willing to bet, the wit was supplied by a publicist or gagwriter. As a rule, celebrities aren't funny without help. Many non-celebrities are funny, though, at least once in a while, which is why there are so many lines in these pages from unknowns who took the time to send me contributions. One is a man who calls himself Strange de Jim. Should he appear in the Index of Authors under Strange or de? Then there is Hal Lee Luyah, who appears five times. Is that a pseudonym or did his parents call him that to have something to shout on Easter Sunday? I quote myself a few times, too, which comes under the heading Abuse of Editorial Privilege. I apologize for that and other character flaws. A word about the antique line cuts, since nobody asked. They are taken from several dozen collections, most of them published by Dover, totaling around 15,000 images. It's not easy matching up a drawing with a quote. Imagine my joy when I found the perfect one for Number 424, Nietzsche's observation that "only sick music makes money today." Have fun. I did. Robert Byrne Dubuque, Iowa Copyright © 2003 by Simon & Schuster, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This book is a must for anyone on your holiday list.....the book is hysterical. Some great quotes, tidbits, advice.....both my husband and I fight over this book. It's a great coffee table book and conversation piece. You can't go wrong if you buy this book.

This book contains, as the name implies, 2,548 quotes which the author judges to be the "best." Most of them are definitely very good, but my father came up with a few that I would rate in the

"best" category (like "I'm not near as strong as I used to be--and I never was.") and I didn't find any of his sayings in this book ...While we are on the subject of inclusions, how in the world was someone able to come up with 2,548 quotes in the first place? I am impressed!One of the things I love about this book is that I can open it anywhere, read one or two quotations, close the book and feel complete. I have so many books laying around that I was reading, got distracted, then never got back to them. These create burdens of in-completion. I'd recommend taking this one to waiting rooms. Every page is amusing and compelling, and also a great stopping place.As an aside, one thing that I have been fascinated with is the occurrence of 'spontaneous themes.' As friends pick up the book and leaf through it, they each seem to attract a theme that carries through on each page. One person will seemingly only see the 'school' related items--another sees death, etc. It happened to me at first also. For a few hours I got the impression that most of the book was about sex. I wonder if Sigmund Freud had any ideas about that ...

Lots of clever stuff! We can only read a few pages at a time, or at least we get the best effect and retention that way.

Interesting, eclectic compilation--quite enjoyable!

This book makes me laugh so hard my face hurts.I especially like how the author puts quotes in a certain order that makes them even funnier.I got mine at a local bookstore, and bought another one on here for my dad because he almost broke his face laughing when he was reading my copy, and wanted to steal it.Awesome coffee table book.

This book is nothing short of fantastic. I'm always quoting from it. Many people think I'm a clever dog, but I'm just using this book. So VERY cool!

Bought this as a gift, I already had a copy. Best bathroom book ever! Very funny. When I finish the last page, I just start at the first page again, and enjoy it just as much every time.

I've been reading bits of this book in my doctor's office for some time. Had to have my own copy. Brilliant!

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