

WOMEN RAP ABOUT SEX

"If you don't want to sleep with him, he assumes it's because you're hung-up and then you have to stay up the whole night anyway convincing him you're not."

"Yeah, it's almost easier to go to bed and get it over with."

"But see, this emancipation thing has simply become a new line. Don't fall for it!"

"That's easier said than done. I mean, would he ever BELIEVE it was his halitosis, even if you could tell him?"

(Laughter) "'Yeah, buddy, hate to hurt your fellings but you SMELL!'" (More laughter)

(Timidly) "Don't you ever sleep with a guy just because he's lonely?"

"Baby, I don't do charity work for nobody."

"We've got to learn to sleep with people because WE want them, not because THEY want us--not to prove anything to them, not to make them feel better about their masculinity, not out of weakness or inability to say no, but simply because we WANT to."

"Can't you do it just because you're horny?"

"Well, if it's so simply physical, why don't you masturbate? Or go write a poem or something? Why do you have to involve someone else to gratify your need? We're certainly bitter enough when men exploit us just to satisfy their need."

"But what if you're both horny..."

"That's just mutual masturbation. Now, real desire for another person is something else again. I see masturbation as physical need detached from any person."

"Let's talk about masturbation. We always seem to avoid that."

"Do you think we masturbate as much as men, or do we just feel guiltier admitting it?"

"I think we probably masturbate less and confess to it less."

"I disagree. I think we masturbate just as much."

"Well, in either case guilt is the root. The question is, why do we feel guiltier? After all, male masturbation is much more freely discussed."

"Maybe we're afraid to take pleasure in our own bodies. We've never really owned them."

"But also--we're afraid of direct pleasure. I mean, this is all inter-related. If our bodies are for the man's pleasure, our pleasure in sex comes only through giving pleasure. There it is, vicariousness again."

"Women don't make love to men. They make love to themselves through the man. It's narcissism."

"Narcissism is just one more type of response to a vicarious sexual role."

"But you know, we miss out. We're kept so busy playing love object, we miss out on masculine beauty."

"You can see that in art, too. It's completely distorted. The only time masculine bodily beauty was celebrated was by the Greeks or Michelangelo, who were homosexual. That's the closest we've come to the female view of the world."

"But there is greater concentration on woman's pleasure in the 20th century, isn't there? All this talk about orgasms and everything?"

"Yeah, well then how come we still don't have them?" (Laughter)

"God, I'm so glad to hear someone admit it! I thought everyone else had them but me..."

"You know, just asking your partner when it's over, 'Did you come?' isn't the same thing as being concerned all along."

"Yeah, it's that old 'did you come, did you come, did you come,' until you could scream!"

"Or until you lie."

"Oh, so you lie too?"

"I really think we're out to examine what's going on. He asks you when it's all over if you came. Well, what good will that do you by then? If you did come, the question is crude; if you didn't, it makes you feel guilty. What's really happening is that responsibility for the failure is being subtly shifted to you so that you'll blame yourself for being frigid instead of blaming him for a bad trip."

"You know that old saying...There's no such thing as a frigid woman, only an insensitive man."

"But can't you just smell the male chauvinism all over that? Man, the great lover, playing on woman like a violin--woman the sensitive instrument. Balzac again. They don't produce our orgasms too, you know."

"Why this obsession with frigidity and orgasms? Frankly I get bored with the subject."

"Too much Wilhelm Reich going around." (Disgustedly) "All these books and manuals about women written by men."

"Well, I know I'd give up an orgasm in a minute for some good lovin.' Orgasms aren't all there is to it, hell no."

"You know, despite what they say, I believe it does take emotional involvement. And with the present situations..."

"At the risk of sounding naive...I've been listening to this for an hour and no one has mentioned love." (Ferocious laughter)

"Love?"

"God, if I waited to fall in love; I'd be climbing the walls!"

"Yeah, forget love. If you even just like him..."

"Forget like. I'd be happy if I could only respect the boy a little bit."

"Respect--forget it. If you can even talk to him at all, you're lucky."

"Even just small talk. About the morning orange juice."

"If you can even stand to wake up next to him..."

"...can stand having his head on your pillow!"

(A shocked silence)

"Do you realize what we're saying? Not only have we been sleeping with guys we don't love, but with guys we positively can't stand."

"What are we doing it for?"

"Well (with a sigh), looks like we're back where we started. Doing it for every reason but the right one."

"This is frightening. I mean, we shouldn't have to give up concern for good relationships to prove we're free."

"Because men really aren't free either. They just like to think they are."

"Yeah, we don't want to become whores like men." (Laughter)

"It's true--sensitive men admit they're unhappy sleeping around. They feel cheap and empty too."

"That Don Juan-Playboy Mystique is just as false as its reverse, the Terrible Tramp."

"But let's not confuse the degree. Sure, they're unhappy too in the role of empty conqueror. But after all, they must get something out of it or things wouldn't be that way."

"A man's sense of personal worth comes through his cocksman-ship, in the Playboy mystique. It's the old business of raising your self-image by lowering someone else."

"Well, all we ever got was pure sexual exploitation, pure and simple."

"We should try to get to the roots of this, though. Sheer resentment isn't the answer. Let's look at it. No birth control, right? Women stuck with childrearing. Who takes the consequences of sex? Women. Therefore, who is less eager for sex? Women. Problem: how to get her into bed by any means necessary--without getting hooked into that awful institution, marriage. Without having to worry about a big bunch of kids to support. Well, of course he resorted to lies, seduction, dishonesty. Get it in and get out before you're trapped. O.K. Women wised up. Result: fewer were seducible and the sexual supply went down. The race was on. And in classic, male competitive manner--he who could get it in the most women with the fewest consequences was the winner. It's really very logical."

"Yeah, with the pill now, we have to be careful not to imitate the situation that grew out of all that. We have to liberate ourselves beyond even the sexual pseudo-freedom that men supposedly have."

"What a job..."

"They're so damaged, poor bastards. But how can we do it alone? A free woman needs a free man."

(Glumly) "I used to think sex was exciting because if there was going to be a real personality confrontation anywhere, it'd be in bed. But I found out they were as blank in bed as out."

"Sometimes, you know (with a sigh), you'd almost rather play ping-pong."

Reprinted from Notes from the First Year, New York Radical Women, 799 Broadway, Room 412, New York City, 10003. June 1968, \$ .50 to Women, \$1.00 to Men.