

“Girls are not machines that you put kindness coins into until sex falls out”

boys get really hot and bothered when sexting and im probably laughing during it and eating macaroni

Can you remember who you were, before the world told you who you should be?

Love with no boundaries.
Your future depends on your capacity to love

Paulo Coelho

Sex, Love, & Romance at UCSB

FIND A WOMAN WITH A BRAIN

THEY ALL HAVE VAGINAS

The world's going to judge you no matter what you do, so live life the way you fucking want to.

they slipped briskly into an intimacy from which they never recovered

f. scott fitzgerald



Passion is derived from a Latin word meaning to suffer, if you genuinely love something,

you suffer for it.

"Speak your heart. If they don't understand, the message was never meant for them anyway."
-Yasmin Mogahed

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Feminist Studies 150H

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Too young to know

Kasey Reinbold

my baby brother
smiles and coos
at the woman making faces
laughing
hovering above him.

“what a ladies man!”
they all proclaim.

my baby brother
turns fifteen
and tells us
he does not feel sexual attraction:
A-S-E-X-U-A-L.

my mother’s tongue rejects the word.
“you’re too young to know for sure.”

the parade in the summer
boasts rainbows and glitter
and corporate sponsorships.
it sings, “we were born this way!”
and leaves a sour taste in my mouth.

i think the hateful folks
may be onto something.

maybe
our passions and our lusts
are a choice.
but that choice
sure as hell
isn’t ours.

This is a love letter Jill Pember wrote to her boyfriend.

She plans to give it to him
before she leaves Santa Barbara for the summer



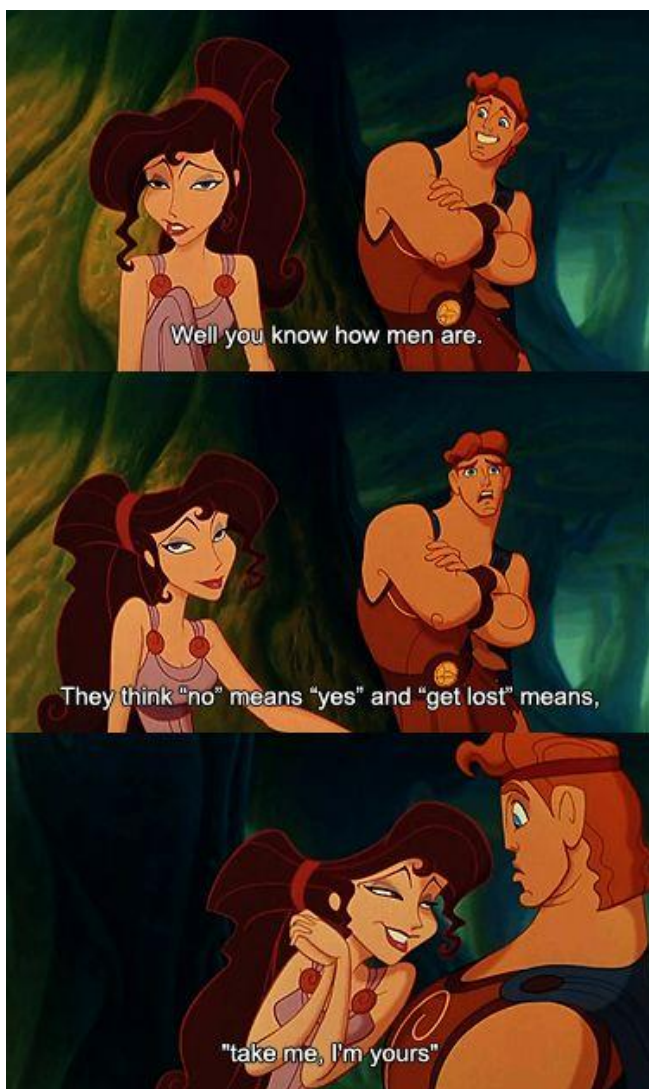
It's so scary to say you're in love, but I just love everything about you - how your face looks so peaceful and sweet when you're sleeping, and all of your freckles, and when we cuddle and you rest your head on top of my breasts, and when you smile with your eyes closed I love it when you kiss me gently, when you pull back, when you push me against the wall and kiss me, when you kiss my neck and my nips and bite my butt. I love it when you call me instead of text, and comfort me when I cry, and hold me tight if you know I'm sad or scared or upset. I love it when you wink at me and pull my hair and tell me I'm pretty, I'm beautiful, I'm gorgeous. I love it when you touch my butt and make me grilled cheese and buy me donuts and I just really love it when you just look at my face and tell me that my eyes look pretty in the light. I love wearing skirts and dresses and cute panties for you and then wearing your basketball shorts the next day. I love sleeping naked in bed with you and pressing my body up against you because I love the way our bodies feel together, just so warm and smooth and right. And I know we've only known each other for two months but I think I'm falling in love with you because everything you do makes me so happy.

I love you I love you I love you I love you I love you



Mass Media: Where No Means Try Harder

By Josephine Bergill-Gentile



I was recently watching TV and came across a scene from the movie *The Devil Wears Prada*. The scene is portrayed as highly romantic where the main character, a female, is walking through the streets of Paris at night accompanied by a man. The man kisses her, something she responds to with hesitation stating that she and her long-term boyfriend had just broken up. He proceeds to kiss her as she lists reasons such as, "I've had too much to drink and my judgment is impaired," and "I barely know you and I'm in a strange city." Eventually she claims to be out of excuses and she winds up in his hotel

room.

This scene brought to mind the slogan "no means yes," a highly problematic phrase that undermines women in regards to consensual sex. We reprimand boys and men for holding this belief,

yet as a culture we are perpetuating the idea that women do not truly mean no and a man continuing his sexual pursuit of her is not only acceptable, but romantic. The scene from *The Devil Wears Prada* described above exemplifies this paradoxical representation in the media. The main character expresses reluctance to the man's advance and states numerous reasons for why their interaction is inappropriate, yet he continues to kiss her, disregarding her verbal messages. While this is worrisome, so is the fact that she continually allows him to kiss her. Her expressed concern might be the character rationalizing with herself and not firmly stating that she does not want to romantically engage with the man. Regardless, this portrayal communicates to a mass audience that despite ambiguity, a woman's words can be undermined. When a woman says no, she doesn't actually mean it and the man just needs to work harder at persuading her; something which will be regarded as romantic.

This ideology is pervasive throughout media and even presents itself in Disney movies. In *Hercules*, the female protagonist, Megara, can be quoted saying "well you know how men are. They think 'no' mean 'yes' and 'get lost' means 'take me I'm yours.'" The film may not directly depict an example of this mentality, but it does normalize the belief to a highly impressionable audience. By women accepting the idea that men are not required to listen to their verbal messages, they fall victim to saying things they don't really mean. Thinking of how this translates to real world settings, boys are taught that women's words can be disregarded and if they refuse your advance one should just keep trying because their refusal is empty. Additionally, if women encourage this pattern by eventually giving into a man, this behavior will only be rewarded; something that will be troublesome when a man encounters a woman who actually does not want him. Through media portrayals, a culture is formed that creates ambiguity surrounding consent, something which should be undoubtedly clear.

Spit Like a Girl

Travis Jahnke

In much of the mainstream coverage that hip hop music receives, it is noted not only for being a window into the daily oppression that impacts the lives of poor black youths in the United States but a channel into which dreams of something better manifest through lyrical barbs and punchlines. But while hip hop music has grown from an outlet for voices which America's privileged middle class refused to hear into one which can be found bumping through the speakers in neighborhoods across all demographics, the position that women occupy within this space has been continually questioned, particularly as it relates to their sexual identities. From Salt-N-Pepa's "Let's Talk About Sex" to the unrepentant braggadocio of Missy Elliott's "I'm Really Hot" to Nicki Minaj proudly proclaiming in 2012's "High School"—"I make him play with my pussy and lick it off with his fingers"—the self-affirming sexuality of young black women has been prominently displayed within rap lyrics since women began to enter the hip hop arena.

But while male rappers are able to spin grandiose tales of their sexual conquests, oftentimes reducing their sexual partners to objects being acted upon rather than active participants, the sexual dexterity of female rappers has been met with mixed responses among academic and general audiences. Common criticism launched against "femcees" include that their public personas and lyrics simply play into a common trope of the hypersexualized black Jezebel, a one-dimensional caricature of carnal desire. In recent years, an opposing school of thought has emerged which argues that female rap is rooted in reclaiming sexual agency in the

face of a world which treats female sexuality, particularly among black women, as a commodity used to satisfy the needs of men rather than for personal pleasure.

Rap stars like Lil' Kim, Trina and Foxy Brown have paved the road by demanding sexual satisfaction and rejecting the idea that female sexuality must be tied to pleasing her partner or that expressing this sexuality is a negative reflection of one's character. With lyrics that simultaneously emasculate partners and empower listeners to challenge accepted sexual scripts, female rap works to establish that women should be able to take an active role in their own sexuality rather than being objectified or simply acted upon. With a combination of explicit lyricism, and the confidence to declare their sexuality as being independent of their respectability or perceived social status, femcees have created a unique space for themselves within contemporary music which represents a brash and unapologetic embracing of their sexual identities. Although no art form is immune to criticism, and there remains an engaging debate among feminist critics as to the broader implications of overt sexuality in mainstream music stars, female rap almost certainly challenges gendered sexual scripts and offers a space for black women to reclaim their sexuality as active agents.

What do you get when you combine a keg, fridge magnets, and a room of intellectual UCSB students at a house in Isla Vista? Some pretty A+ poetry, that's what

By Mint Dalton

Who doesn't put my bare love petal through summer?

language you lick & push quick in the storm

so
trudge

the lazy life is better

I fiddle at my fluff

beat

diamond wind is our blue breast

shes about to pound a girly man

please rip
never stop

men wax their gardens

lather his butt with his mothers eggs

sweet beauty be pink and luscious

woman pant as I smear my apparatus

symphony together away music languid

frantic moans
smells
of skin
whisper screams
have me raw

smooth sweat ache

can you swim through the water
or drool no mist
use at cool arm

rock her bed with
her gorgeous
blood y
red mess

one rose
always here
delirious and bitter

repulsive friend
beneath mad lust

want head & finger in
forest

day spring

The Pitfalls of Falling in Love with Your Best Friend

Chloe Brotherton

Falling in love. I always thought it was a stupid metaphor. So cliché. Trite, even. What did it even mean? Falling just implies a complete absence of agency. Like as if you can trip over something and be in love with someone. That love is completely accidental. It seemed like bs to me. Plus, how did you know when the falling started and stopped? Did you hit the bottom at some point?

Well, I guess now I'm at the bottom. Like in every romantic trope ever, my cynicism was proven wrong. Because OF COURSE. The universe just isn't fair. One day I looked at my best friend and something hit me over the head like a metaphorical ton of bricks. Never had I ever been so on the same page with someone. We could communicate across the room without a word. We could talk for hours about absolutely nothing. It was him that I wanted to tell when I had a bad day. He was the one that could make me laugh when I wanted to cry. And I realized I'd been in denial for months.

And how had I gotten there? For a while, I pictured myself as standing at the edge of a large precipice. It seemed that I had two options: stay safe up at the top, or jump and fall into the unknown. I dithered on top of that peak for months, indecisive, in limbo. Not able to take the plunge, not able to let go. Reading into every conversation, replaying them in my head ad nauseum. Thinking about him, dreaming about him, wanting him. But being terrified of screwing everything up. Of rejection. And I recognized that I was giving him an immense amount of

power, and he didn't even know it. So I clung onto my own personal purgatory, too afraid to move on into heaven or hell.

But soon it was decided for me. I became aware that my feelings were unrequited. And that's when I realized that I had been wrong all along. I hadn't been standing on solid ground, contemplating a jump. I had been falling the whole time. Free falling. No parachute. Terminal velocity. And now I was on the ground, broken and bleeding. I looked up at my path of descent, and understood that I'd been fooling myself. I had fallen in love with him. I had clung onto the illusion of choice, that I could decide whether or not to subject myself to pain, as if I could protect myself from heartbreak. But in the end, I had no control. And I was broken, all the same. And I finally appreciated the metaphor. I had been in a maelstrom of feelings, off-balance, unstable, and out of control. Then it was over. I had landed. Now I'm trying to dust myself off, so maybe I can make that crazy jump again.

Here Comes The Bride

Young women and their thoughts on marriage

By Jamie Wayne

It's not too difficult to see that the wedding industrial complex is currently alive and well. Just flipping through the channels on television will lead one to land on at least one or two wedding themed programs. Shows like "Say Yes to the Dress" and "Four Weddings" display glamorous dresses, lavish wedding decorations, and outrageously expensive receptions. Another source of wedding obsession is the popular social media website, Pinterest. On this website, many young women have wedding-themed boards, where they post ideas for their future special day. What is interesting about these boards, is that many of these young women are not planning a wedding. They aren't even engaged. Most of these women are college-age and don't plan on getting married for another six to ten years. I was interested in this particular phenomenon and wanted to answer the following questions: Why were young women already thinking about their wedding? Was it the wedding itself or marriage that they were looking forward to? Were they aware of the complex and negative aspects of marriage, especially for them as women?

To answer these questions, I created an anonymous online survey that I posted to Facebook. I asked a series of questions concerning the use of wedding-themed Pinterest boards, and about their thoughts on marriage. I also left the questions open ended, so that respondents could convey any additional comments. The majority of respondents were ages twenty to twenty-five, and about three quarters of them had wedding-themed Pinterest boards. The most common theme I found

among responses was that although these young women looked forward to marriage, their desires conflicted with their own feelings on the topic.

When it came to Pinterest boards themselves, respondents mostly conveyed that the boards were used mostly, “just for fun.” These young women used Pinterest as a form of entertainment, and enjoyed fantasizing about their own “white wedding.” They also found it useful to save ideas for the time when they would eventually plan a wedding. I deduced from these answers that the wedding itself was not taken as seriously as I had originally thought. Equally as important, it seemed, was marriage itself.

For these young women, marriage was something that they looked forward to. They were hopeful that they would find a partner with whom they could spend the rest of their lives with. Many respondents also brought up the aspect of romance as being important to them, and as a vital precursor to any successful marriage. One respondent looked forward to marriage because of “the fantasy that you are going to be with this one guy ‘happily and forever.’” Another respondent said that “a large portion of getting married is about romance.”

Although many of them were hopeful they would one day be married, the respondents showed an awareness of the complexities of marriage. A majority of respondents said that they are somewhat concerned about divorce when they think of marriage, and they sometimes think of the negative effects marriage could have on them as women, such as marital abuse and exploitation. None responded that they weren’t concerned at all about these things. From these answers, it is apparent that young women still wish to get married, but will be careful in choosing potential partners.

The wish to eventually get married was overwhelmingly present in answers. More than eighty percent of respondents said that they viewed marriage as a necessary milestone in their lives. The majority also expressed that they would be disappointed if they didn’t get married. The answers from these young women demonstrated that the desire to be married is still very common, even with their awareness of the negative and complex aspects of the institution. They also liked to

fantasize about their own future wedding day, and about the romance they hoped to share with their partner. Overall, my research left me with more questions than answers. What are the forces that cause women to desire marriage? Why is romance so appealing to young women? What is it about monogamous, long-term relationships that holds such great significance? Why is marriage seen as a necessary milestone in one's life? These are questions that I encourage young women to ask themselves, and to explore the ways in which society may or may not be influencing their answers.

I AM ROMANCED BY SEXY TIMES, SILENCE, SPAGHETTI AND SELF-RESPECT

It is the
with the
manes
Sojourner
Truth

is a bowl of
nches
in
opli.
ff

x is my
y, my int
ct, my
pice, my
ly and
heard

moment
choose to
we begin to
we a gainst dom
ition, against oppr
ion. The moment we
ose to love we
e towards freed
bell hooks

BRITNEY BRINGUEZ

I now to embrace
my soul, my love,
my intellect, my
decisions, and my
activism for myself,
because ultimately, I
am a human being.

Romance is embracing
vaging and all
magic



We are all going
to die, all of us, what
a circus! That alone should
make us love each other
but it doesn't. We are terrorized
and flattened by trivialities,
We are eaten up by nothing.
Charles Bukowski

have chosen to no
nger be apologetic for my
sexuality. And
I deserve to be
respected in all of
my life.

The “Blackness” in My Sexuality
-By Bridget Kyeremateng

I wonder why **Black Sexuality** is even a thing. I don't see why the stigma on women of color being **sexual** or not sexual, is even a thing. In this **predominantly white university**, I feel singled out. And yes, 39% is the MAJORITY of this campus, stop grouping folks of color as the other 61% and think that we are diverse—actually split the 61% and the percentages get smaller with each ethnicity.

From media images, music, and oral stories, people quickly assume that black women are **hyper-sexual, independent, and “don't-need-no-man”**. Is this shit really fucking serious? I've taken countless of courses about black women in the media, so I understand the history behind it, but I want you to focus on **my experience**.

Ever since I met my best friend, I've learned so much about how to **express my sexuality** through clothing. How clothing is **liberating** and an amazing agency that we have here. Dressing in tighter clothes that hug my curves, wearing shirts that show my arms, or shorts that show my fit legs, my best friend really advocated that I should dress like this, “because you will never look like this anymore”. We both demand that people see Black women are **invisible** to society, but **visible** when words are used. I use my sexuality in an interesting way. I want to explore. I **don't like** and what I **do** like. Since I already know how to pleasure myself, I need to learn how to transfer that, when it comes



to communicating to my partners. Secondly, because this stupid stereotype of “**exotic-ness**” of black women isn't going to go away anytime soon, I use it to my advantage. The way I dress, wear my hair and express myself has this **exotic appearance** to me and men tend to sometimes be attracted to that. “**I've never been with a black girl**”, “**I've never had a woman with hair like this**”, just shut the hell up. I'm just luring your ass in so I can get my pleasure and leave.

I know when the time comes and I stumble upon someone who does see color—I don't play that “I don't see color shit and who can actually have meaningful conversations, great sex and actually have a 50/50 relationship, then that will be the day. **Black sexuality** is really seen as demeaning and derogatory but I use it to my advantage since this **society is so fucked up already**.

Love According to Nicholas Sparks and College Students

"And when her lips met mine, I knew that I could live to be a hundred and visit every country in the world, but nothing would ever compare to that single moment when I first kissed the girl of my dreams and knew that my love would last forever."

- *Dear John*

"I love you. I am who I am because of you. You are every reason, every hope, and every dream I've ever had, and no matter what happens to us in the future, everyday we are together is the greatest day of my life. I will always be yours."

- *The Notebook*

"True love is rare, and it's the only thing that gives life real meaning."

- *Message in a Bottle*

Nicholas Sparks has gained much popularity and notoriety for his penning of many romance novels. In them he describes (from the perspective of different characters) what it feels like to fall in love and what it feels like to be in love. Looking at some various quotes it would appear that Sparks's idea of what it means to be in love is possessive and "end all be all". In other words, true love is life's end goal, and it is the only emotion that gives life real meaning. Despite the hopes and dreams of women everywhere, this representation of love is an unrealistic portrayal of what it feels like to be in love.

In order to gain a better understanding of what people believe falling in love feels like, I turned to my peers to hear their experiences. From their testimonials, love is about happiness and wanting to be better for both themselves and for the other person. Love is also about wanting the best for them unconditionally, even if the relationship didn't work out. It would seem that is the biggest difference between reality and romance novels; in real life it doesn't matter what happens with the person you will always want them to be happy.

"But once we met, it was clear that neither of us could control what was happening to us. We fell in love, despite our differences, and once we did, something rare and beautiful was created. For me, love like that has happened only once, and that's why every minute we spent together has been seared in my memory. I'll never forget a single moment of it."

- *The Notebook*

"The greater the love, the greater the tragedy when it's over."

- *Nights in Rodanthe*

Sara Cratsenburg

"I don't know that love changes. People change. Circumstances change."
- *The Notebook*

"It felt like I could be my complete self with the other person and they would never judge me, an overjoyed feeling of happiness and excitement knowing that the other person feels the same. A sense of wanting to protect the other person and be with them all the time. It's so awesome!"

"I think I knew that it was love when even after we broke up, I still cared for him and couldn't stop asking myself if he was okay or what he was doing at that point in time. It may have hurt, breaking it off with your first true love, but I wouldn't have changed it for the world."

Love, As told by College Students

"It felt like you had found someone who truly sees the full beauty of you and accepts you 100%. It's like an old friend that you'd been separated from for the longest time, but when you meet them, it's like time had never passed."

"It felt like I belonged with this person no matter what they did. Even if they hurt me. I've never had chemistry with anyone else like I did with my first love. Even if everything they did was wrong, I never doubted how much I loved them. However, love doesn't conquer all and is definitely impractical at times."

"Falling in love is finding someone who makes you want to be better, brings out the best in you, and makes you happy. It is the best feeling in the world."

It felt like it was finally safe to be vulnerable. No longer would I have to filter myself or feel as though changing myself was necessary, because I'd created this safe and familiar space with someone else in which we'd agreed to trust and accept each other wholeheartedly.

"It felt scary, but somehow comforting. It felt like I was consumed with how much my best friend meant to me and I never wanted to let go of the moments I spent with him."

"Complete chaos"

"It hits you so suddenly because you start out just loving bits and pieces of the person and then it's suddenly a rush of love for the being as a whole."

"I look at them, my heart melts. It's sickening to think that this sort of infatuation is healthy, and that someone else can have such a strong hold on you, but I wouldn't get rid of it if I could. I think that once you're in love with someone, it's hard to fall out of it easily"

Sara Cratsenburg

"Sometimes I scroll through our past text messages and just wonder to myself how I got so lucky to have someone as incredible as her in my life. She made me see how even the things in life I couldn't stand had something beautiful about them"

Wifey Material
by Anna Crossman

Have you ever been told you'd make a great wife?

I have.

And at first you think it's sweet,

Until you realize what they really mean.

See, whenever a guy says that I am "wifey material"

They are doing two things.

First, they discount you because you're too good,

Too smart, or too "pure".

Second, they discount you again, because right now,

You're not the hottest, or skinniest, or most-likely-to-screw.

Then, they say "but one day you're going to make a really great wife"

And that some guy will realize that once he has grown up.

So what?

Am I supposed to sit here while some idiot grows up,

And then realizes I am good enough?

No

Screw that!

I am great NOW!

And if a guy can't see that

He can go and find himself another "wifey".

“Girls are not machines that you put kindness coins into until sex falls out”

boys get really hot and bothered when sexting and im probably laughing during it and eating macaroni

Can you remember who you were, before the world told you who you should be?

*Love with no boundaries.
Your future depends on your capacity to love*

Paulo Coelho

#Love, #Sex, and #Romance

Depicted by a collection of Instagram screenshots

By Janina Korba

FIND A WOMAN WITH A BRAIN

THEY ALL HAVE VAGINAS

The world's going to judge you no matter what you do, so live life the way you fucking want to.

they slipped
briskly
into an intimacy
from which they
never recovered

f. scott fitzgerald



Passion is derived from a Latin word meaning to suffer, if you genuinely love something,

you suffer for it.

"Speak your heart. If they don't understand, the message was never meant for them anyway."

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