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20,000 Quips & Quotes Details

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From Reader Review 20,000 Quips & Quotes for online ebook

Ellen Kucharik says

Very outdated and sexist but amusing at times.

Jen says

One of my hobbies is collecting quotes, but I don't recommend this collection. I don't have much of a tolerance for quote collectors who quote themselves more than others or who leave most of the quotes as anonymous or unknown. It is arranged by topics though with an index. That's always nice.

Phoenix says

Grins and Chuckles

I have a mid-sized collection of around 40 or so books of quotations, among my favourites being a well worn International Thesaurus of Quotations which I've had since high school and Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Times along with specialty items such as Primetime Proverbs Bk of TV Qu and As They See Us but I had never heard of Evan Esar who was a nationally syndicated columnist back in the 1960s. Further I also enjoy talks and books where the author uses introductory quotes with a touch of humour to summarize what is about to come. This copy recently showed up at a used book sale and after 15-20 minutes of flipping through the pages and grinning all the while I decided I had to have it, and that the book deserved a promotional boost in the form of a review.

All of the quotations are, as the title suggests, quip sized, that is, fairly short. About half are attributed, the rest anonymous, and of the latter many are purportedly by the author himself - ostensibly the lack of documentation was out of modesty. A fair number are sexist, which is more an indicator of how far we've come in the last few decades, though many can be adapted for either sex or none. This one can choose to overlook as one is pretty much guaranteed to find at least two or more appealing and trenchant witticisms (if not more) per page, an excellent rate of return for such a modestly priced work. The citation is also limited to the person, but not the source, which may be a drawback for academic use, unless it can be tracked down elsewhere.

A few examples from pages chosen at random...

Brevity: There's a great power in words, if you don't hitch too many of them together. - Josh Billings

If you want a real lasting finish put on your car, try beating the train to the railway crossing. -Anon

We throw flowers at the dead, and mud at the living. - Anon

Tact consists in knowing how far to go too far. - Jean Cocteau

What the American public wants in the theatre is a tragedy with a happy ending - William Dean Howells
(Les Miserables would be a perfect example)

Curated collections of quotes can be found both digitally and in print - this one is far better than anything I've come across online. Keeping these caveats in mind, and assuming you enjoy laughing out loud, Recommended.
