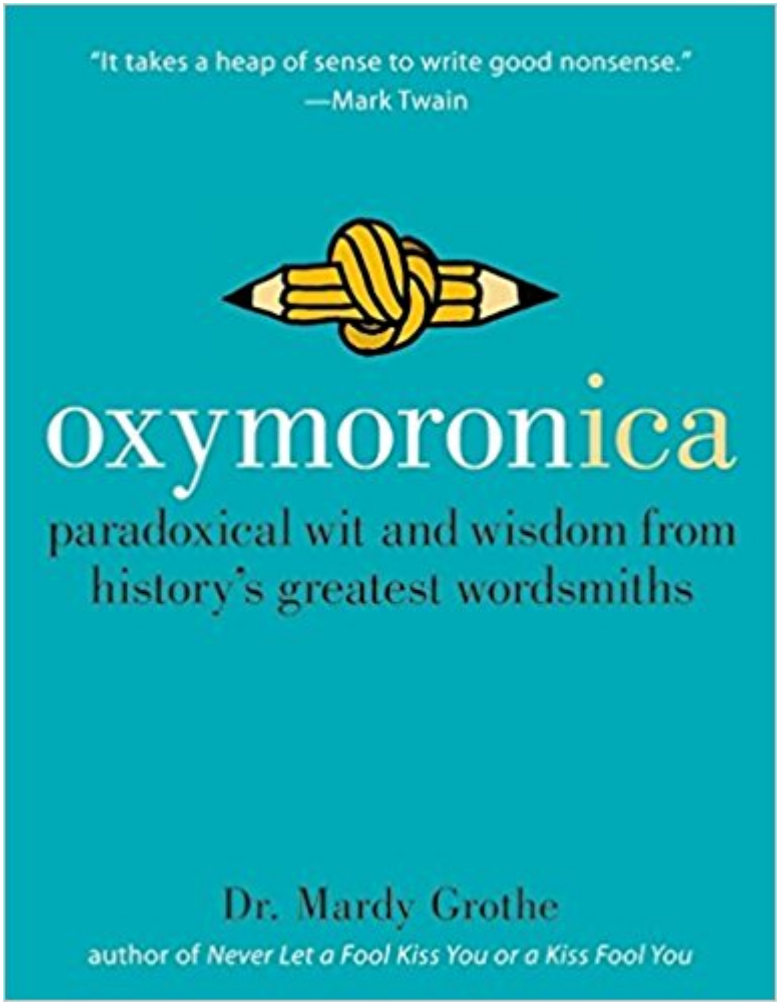
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Oxymoronica: Paradoxical Wit & Wisdom From History's Greatest Wordsmiths



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Synopsis

ox-y-mor-on-i-ca (OK-se-mor-ON-uh-ca) noun, plural: Any variety of tantalizing, self-contradictory statements or observations that on the surface appear false or illogical, but at a deeper level are true, often profoundly true. See also oxymoron, paradox.examples:"Melancholy is the pleasure of being sad."Victor Hugo"To lead the people, walk behind them." Lao-tzu"You'd be surprised how much it coststo look this cheap."Dolly PartonYou won't find the word "oxymoronica" in any dictionary (at least not yet) because Dr. Mardy Grothe introduces it to readers in this delightful collection of 1,400 of the most provocative quotations of all time. From ancient thinkers like Confucius, Aristotle, and Saint Augustine to great writers like Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, and G. B. Shaw to modern social observers like Woody Allen and Lily Tomlin, Oxymoronica celebrates the power and beauty of paradoxical thinking. All areas of human activity are explored, including love, sex and romance, politics, the arts, the literary life, and, of course, marriage and family life. The wise and witty observations in this book are as highly entertaining as they are intellectually nourishing and are sure to grab the attention of language lovers everywhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Coining the titular word to describe quotations that contain seemingly self-contradictory elements, psychologist and amateur wordsmith Grothe (Never Let a Fool Kiss You or a Kiss Fool You) gathers hundreds of examples—ancient, modern and everything in between—of such sayings. From Confucius’s "Real knowledge is to know the extent of one’s own ignorance" to

Yogi Berra’s "Nobody goes there anymore. It’s too crowded" to Adrienne Rich’s "Marriage is lonelier than solitude," these bon mots offer pithy insights and sometimes clever advice. Grothe’s 14 chapters group the quotations by theme; in "Sex, Love, and Romance," for example, Louise Colet advises readers to "Doubt the man who swears to his devotion," while in "Oxymoronic Insults (and a Few Compliments)," Henry James reflects that George Eliot is "magnificently ugly…. in this vast ugliness resides a most powerful beauty which, in a very few minutes, steals forth and charms the mind." Potentially useful to public speakers and certainly bound to amuse word mavens, Grothe’s collection is good clean fun—with a bit of an edge: the last section offers "Inadvertent Oxymoronica," in which George W. Bush is quoted as saying "One of the common denominators I have found is that expectations rise above that which is expected." Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Adult/High SchoolÃ¢â ¬â œGrothe is an inveterate collector of words and phrases. He is especially fond of paradoxical sayings, "ideas stood on their heads." He has been gathering such seemingly contradictory quotations as Carrie Fisher’s "Instant gratification takes too long" or Yogi Berra’s pithy "Nobody goes there anymore. It’s too crowded" for years. For him, these sayings are like oxymorons but with more depth. Thus, he coined the term, "Oxymoronica, n.; A compilation of self-contradictory terms, phrases, or quotations; examples of oxymoronica appear illogical or nonsensical at first, but upon reflection, make a good deal of sense and are often profoundly true." This book is an assemblage of his collection divided into 14 chapters ranging widely in subject and author from wit and wisdom through love and sex to insults, written by Ovid through Oscar Wilde to George W. Bush, with many thought-provoking stops in between. The collection can be dipped into frequently and offers much to think about upon first, second, or third readings. It will be useful for public speakers, debate classes, English assignments, and essays. There is an index of authors and broad topics, though finding a specific quote might prove challenging. There’s even a Web site to submit new ideas or to join a discussion with like-minded devotees. The whole collection might be summed up by Berra, "I didn’t say everything I said." Lots of fun and much to ponder.Ã¢â ¬â œSusan H. Woodcock, Fairfax County Public Library, Chantilly, VA Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

There are concentrations of phrases on a few pages but the book is mostly filled with evidence that the author is good in digging up historical information and drawing conclusions concerning

development or use. I expected more pages (with heavy indexing) of phrases without the author’s input.

A brilliant book. Well balanced and entertaining.One word of caution : prior to its purchase I’ve looked through the 2 and 3 stars. Amazingly, these were misrepresentations of the author style, claiming untruthful facts, alike an extensive footnoting. Well, it is not true for all of the book. I express deep concern from these faulty reports on . They should be banned.

Read a friend’s copy, got this one to give as a gift for a friend who loves words and good writing as much as I do. Couldn’t be happier.

Gave it as a gift and it was very popular. I had to pick it up myself when I visited and enjoyed the read.

An enjoyable resource...Oxymoronica is book of serious and fun word play in the land of parodoxand insight. Great to savor alone or share. Enjoy!

Very good. Great quotes.

I have yet to read a book by Mardy Grothe that is not deeply engrossing, encourages lots of reflection and is often hilarious at the same time. This is one of five I own, most of which I have read three or four times apiece. The amazing part is that the books are all about words and language! This one explores sayings that on the surface seem to contradict themselves but on other levels reveal some profound insights about how we think and express ourselves. If you want a reading experience that delights and informs I strongly recommend this or any of his other books.

The book contains a wide selection of paradoxical expressions arranged in 14 different sections from sex, love and romance, to politics, insults, insights from world literature, etc.Here are few examples:The lage F.W.H. Myers used to tell how he asked a man at a dinner table what he thought would happen to him when he died.The man tried to ignore the question, but, on being pressured, replied:"Oh well, I suppose I shall inherit eternal bliss,but I wish you wouldn’t talk abut such unpleasant subjects."* * *I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.* * *Last month I blew $5,000 on a reincarnation seminar.I figured, hey, you only live once.* * *We sleep in separate

rooms, we have dinner apart,we take separate vacatins.We’re doing everything we can to keep our marriage together.* * *Beware! To touch these wires is instant death.Anyone found doing so will be prosecuted.

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