Fantacies

If one is lucky, a solitary fantasy can totally transform one million realities. *(Maya Angelou, in The Heart of a Woman)*

**When asked if she had any fantasies, Erma Bombeck said: “I always wanted to be a ballerina. Other than that, just the usual fantasies most other women have, where you give a Tupperware party and only Robert Redford shows up.” *(Judy Kessler, in People)***

**Someday there is going to be book about middle-aged man with a good job, a beautiful wife and two lovely children who still manages to be happy. *(Bill Vaughn, NANA)***

**Man: “So I'm going to be taking next week off so I can go to the Indians Fantasy Camp!” Woman: “Since when do men need to go to a camp to fantasize?” *(Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)***

**For a refreshing change, I hope a candid club chairman will present the speaker of the evening by saying: “So-and-so is rather obscure outside of his own small circle, and therefore requires a fairly elaborate introduction.” *(Sydney J. Harris, in Leaving the Surface)***

**I started daydreaming when I read the typo in the sentence: “The superintendent withdrew a proposal to borrow funds to purchase coping machines.” Ah, that’s what I want for Christmas – a coping machine. *(Herbert M. Davidson, in Daytona Beach, Florida, Morning Journal)***

**On a visit to Disney World, we were enjoying a relaxing lunch inside Cinderella’s Castle. The waiter came by and suggested dessert. “We have crepes,” he offered. “Strawberry or chocolate?” We opted for the chocolate crepes, telling him we’d have to start our diets the minute we returned home. “But our desserts have no calories,” he replied. “This is Fantasy Land!” *(Gloria Pero, in Reader’s Digest)***

**We don’t create a fantasy world to escape reality, we create it to be able to stay. *(Lynda Barry, cartoonist)***

**Workers playing fantasy football cost employers as much as $1.1 billion a week in lost productivity during the NFL season. *(The Washington Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 8, 2006)***

**Men fantasize about having a harem, a group of women that fulfills all their wishes. Women don't fantasize about having a male harem. That's just more men to pick up after. *(Rita Rudner's Guide to Men)***

**The HBO fantasy series Game of Thrones, which is popular among teens and young adults, averages 3.9 million pirated downloads per episode – more than the 3.8 million people who watch the show legally on HBO. *(Gizmodo.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 22, 2012)***

**Searching for a libertarian paradise: “Why are there no libertarian countries?” asked Michael Lind. Modern states have tested all kinds of political philosophies, from fascism to communism to social democracy. But not one of the world’s 193 sovereign states – not even a tiny one – has adopted a full-on libertarian system, with very limited government, an unfettered free-market economy, decriminalized drugs, and no welfare or public education system. Yet libertarians still insist we’d all be happier in a system with an absolute minimum of government. Lacking real examples to prove their point, libertarians are forced to make lists of nations where there is a lot of “economic freedom,” with the lowest taxes and least regulation. That list includes such countries as Singapore, where economic liberty is paired with an oppressive police state, and Mauritius, a tiny island country with double the infant mortality rate of the U.S. and nearly triple its maternal mortality rate. Would you prefer to live in either place? Libertarianism, clearly, is based on a fantasy – that regulations, social safety nets, a strong military, and engagement abroad are unnecessary nuisances that can be discarded. Libertarians live not in reality, but in an “imaginary utopia.” *(The Week magazine, June 21, 2013)***

**Having plenty of life insurance would be more enjoyable if we could somehow be our own beneficiaries. *(Jim Fiebig, NANA)***

**We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in life is to find reality. *(Iris Murdoch, novelist)***

If you can tune into the fantasy life of an 11-year-old girl, you can make a fortune in this business. *(George Lucas, movie-man)*

**This is one year we’d love to be on the mailing list to get a long Christmas letter from Miss Lillian explaining what her family’s been up to. *(William D. Tammeus, in Kansas City Star)***

When you consider all the negative fantasies that run through the mind each day, it’s no wonder the body stores so much tension,” says psychologist Joan Borysenko in Minding the Body, Mending the Mind. “Why not purposely substitute positive fantasies by actively guiding your imagination?” When times get tough, it helps to remember you have a right to play as well as work. Even if you can’t get away, you can use your imagination to take a stress-busting “mini-vacation.” *(C. W. Metcalf with Roma Felible, in Reader’s Digest)*

**Someday, perhaps, a state or city will pass up the names of famous people and name new facilities “Taxpayer Stadium.” *(Bill Vaughn, NANA)***

We are told that the lack of a formal education, mostly in literature, leads to numerous pernicious personal conditions, such as the inability to think critically, to write clearly, to emphasize with other people, to be curious about other people and places, to recognize truth, beauty, and goodness. These solemn anxieties are grand, lofty, civic-minded, admirably virtuous, and virtuously admirable. They are also a sentimental fantasy. Only a knave would applaud the falling-off in the formal study of books that cultivate empathy, curiosity, aesthetic taste, and moral refinement. But the academic study of literature leads to nothing of the sort. Literature is too sacred to be taught. It needs only to be read. *(Lee Siegel, in The Wall Street Journal)*

**It would be nice if the Food and Drug Administration stopped issuing warnings about toxic substances and just gave me the names of one or two things still safe to eat. *(Robert Fuoss, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**Not long ago, Los Angeles psychologist David Bresler helped a cardiologist with rectal cancer overcome his paralyzing pain. Asked to picture his pain as concretely as possible, the man soon said he could “see” a vicious dog snapping at his spine. Bresler asked him to imagine himself making friends with the dog, talking to it, patting it. “Many of us had imaginary playmates as kids,” says Bresler, “and that resource for vivid fantasy is still alive in us. I just try to tap it.” As the cardiologist became “friends” with the vicious dog, he found his pain subsiding and becoming more manageable. *(Laurence Cherry, in Reader's Digest)***

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