**Real or Imaginary?**

**The real is always way ahead of what we can imagine. *(Paul Auster, novelist)***

**Nothing is really real unless it happens on television. *(Daniel J. Boorstin, former Librarian of Congress)***

**People get divorced and quit jobs for the same reason, says one authority: “Their experience didn’t match their ideal.” Trick is to revamp your ideal, if possible, instead of your circumstance. That’s what survivors do. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Lucy: "Dear Grandma, I had a very nice birthday. Thank you for the doll. It is very real. In fact, it is a little too real. When I go some place, I have to hire a sitter!” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**Young woman at exclusive beach club, when asked where she lives: "You mean out here or in real life?" *(Dan Harrison, in Reader's Digest)***

**In real life, I assure you, there is no such thing as algebra. *(Fran Lebowitz)***

**NBC aired 10.5, a disaster movie about an earthquake that hits the West Coast. Have you noticed only bad actors are affected by a disaster in a TV movie? Earthquakes never hit where Meryl Streep or Russell Crowe are. It’s always Erik Estrada trapped under something heavy. Scientists reportedly are upset about 10.5 because they say it’s not realistic. Hey, we have reality shows where beautiful women date big, fat, hairy guys. Now that's realistic! *(Jay Leno, 2004)***

**When I taught the introduction-to-theater course at North Dakota State University, I required my students to attend the university theater’s current production and write a critique. After viewing a particularly fine performance, one student wrote: “The play was so real, I thought I was actually sitting on my coach at home, watching it on television.” *(M. Joy Erickson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Spare me the grim litany of the realist. Give me the unrealistic aspirations of the optimist any day. *(Colin Powell)***

**Sooner or later all science fiction comes true. *(J. G. Ballard, author)***

**A classic film scene became almost too real for a famous star. Jean Seberg was playing St. Joan in the climatic stake scene when her clothes caught on fire and she nearly got grilled. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 9)***

**Didn't "Lost Horizon" author James Hilton pattern his Shangri-La after a real place? Some say so. After Hunza in Pakistan's northern frontier, where an unusually high number of locals live more than 100 years, it's reported. Claim to be world's healthiest people. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Being realistic is the most commonly traveled road to mediocrity. *(Will Smith)***

**Something must be wrong – everything’s beginning to look real. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Mom: "Here you are, guys -- a genuine culinary treat! From Mother's kitchen comes real, honest-to-goodness homemade soup! What's the matter? This isn't out of a can -- it's real!" Boy: "I know. We like the stuff in the can." *(Lynn Johnston, in For Better or For Worse comic strip)***

**Most people don’t act stupid – it’s the real thing! *(Kathy Wolfe, in Tidbits)***

**The El Rey Theater in Manteca, California, burst into flames shortly after a showing of The Towering Inferno. The fire, of undetermined origin, leveled the theater. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 9)***

**Nothing real can be threatened. *(On a Tara Singh seminar flier, a teacher of A Course In Miracles)***

**A really large unicorn: Unicorns were real. Well, sort of. A well-preserved fossilized skull found in Kazakhstan provides evidence that a creature with a single large horn on its head roamed Siberia alongside human ancestors about 29,000 years ago, The Guardian reports. The real-life version of the fabled unicorn, formally called Elasmotherium sibiricum, was not a beautiful white steed, but a shaggy, hulking cousin of the rhinoceros. The furry herbivore was about 6 feet tall by 15 feet long and weighed in at roughly 9,000 pounds. It used its large horn for defense. New radiocarbon dating techniques reveal the creature may have outlived others of its kind by about 300,000 years by migrating to western Siberia, which had a relatively mild climate at the time. *(The Week magazine, April 15, 2016)***

**An Italian woman called police to report that virtual burglars broke into the virtual home she maintains in an online game and stole her virtual furniture. Paola Letizia, 44, said she spent $140 of real money furnishing and decorating her virtual apartment in the Facebook game Pet Society, and that the hackers who got into her account and removed the furniture committed a real-world crime. “I don’t think it matters that the apartment only exists in Facebook,” said Letizia. “It is real to me, and I have suffered a real loss.” *(The Week magazine, December 24, 2010 – January 7, 2011)***

**Physicists have found that if they seek to measure a particle as a wave, not a particle, the particle “becomes” a wave and ceases to be a particle. But if they seek to measure it as a particle, it ceases to be measurable as a wave, and “becomes” a particle. In other words, reality is what we say it is. From this, physicists have decided that the scientist cannot call himself “the observer” of an experiment, but instead becomes “the participant.” Nothing is real, apart from what we create. *(Gregory Barrette, Unity minister)***

**If life’s not real, why worry? If it is real, I should have started worrying much sooner. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

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