

ALL ABOUT EVE QUOTES MARGO CHANNING

- "Everybody has a heart- except some people." - Margo
- "There are some human experiences, Birdie, that do not take place in a vaudeville house - and that even a fifth-rate vaudevillian should understand and respect!"
- "Suddenly, I've developed a big protective feeling for her. A lamb loose in our big stone jungle." - Margo
- "Funny business, a woman's career. The things you drop on your way up the ladder so you can move faster. You forget you'll need them again when you get back to being a woman." - Margo
- "Lloyd, I am not twenty-ish. I am not thirty-ish. Three months ago, I was forty years old. Forty. Four oh - That slipped out. I hadn't quite made up my mind to admit it. Now I suddenly feel as if I've taken all my clothes off." - Margo
- "Bill's thirty-two. He looks thirty-two. He looked it five years ago, he'll look it twenty years from now. I hate men." - Margo
- *[to Bill]* "This is my house, not a theater. In my house, you're a guest, not a director." - Margo
- "Am I going to lose you, Bill?"
- "The only thing I ordered by mistake is the guests...They're domestic, too, and they don't care what they drink as long as it burns..."
- "In this rat race, everybody's guilty till they're proved innocent!" - Margo
- "...she won't get away with it, nor will Addison De Witt and his poison pen. If Equity or my lawyer can't or won't do anything about it, I shall personally stuff that pathetic little lost lamb down Mr. De Witt's ugly throat." - Margo
- "Never have I been so happy...I'm forgiving tonight, even Eve, I forgive Eve" - Margo
- "...Do you know what I'm going to be?...A married lady...No more make believe off stage or on"
- "I don't want to play Cora...It's a great part in a fine play. But not for... a four-square, upright, downright, forthright married lady"

- "I finally got a life to live. I don't have to play parts I'm too old for, just because I've got nothing to do with my nights." - Margo
- "Nice speech, Eve. But I wouldn't worry too much about your heart. You can always put that award where your heart ought to be." - Margo
- "Bill, don't get stuck on some glamour-puss... You're a set-up for some gorgeous, wide-eyed young bait."
- (To Bill) "A girl of so many rare qualities... So you've pointed out so often. So many qualities so often. Her loyalty, efficiency, devotion, warmth, and affection, and so young. So young and so fair."
- "I'm fed up with both the young lady and her qualities. Studying me as if I were a play or a blueprint, how I walk, talk, think, act, sleep..."
- "There are particular aspects of my life to which I would like to maintain sole and exclusive rights and privileges.... For instance, you."
- "What about her teeth? What about her fangs?"
- "We haven't finished with the embalming. As a matter of fact, you're looking at it - the remains of Margo Channing, sitting up."
- You're in a beehive, pal. Didn't you know? We're all busy little bees, full of stings, making honey, day and night. *[To Eve]* Aren't we, honey?
- (To Lloyd) "[An actress decides they're her words and thoughts she's expressing] usually at the point when she has to rewrite and rethink them to keep the audience from leaving the theater."
- (To Bill) "You're being terribly tolerant, aren't you?... But you needn't be. I will not be tolerated and I will not be plotted against."
- "What do you all take me for - Little Nell from the country? Been my understudy for over a week without my knowing it, carefully hidden no doubt."
- "A body and a voice!" (in reply to Bill calling her a beautiful and intelligent woman)
- "It's obvious you're not a woman."
- "I'll admit I may have seen better days, but I'm still not to be had for the price of a cocktail, like a salted peanut."
- "So many people know me. I wish I did. I wish someone would tell me about me."

- "What is ["Margo"] besides something spelled out in lightbulbs?"
- "[What is "Margo"] besides something called a temperament which consists mostly of swooping about on a broomstick and screaming at the top of my voice?"
- "Infants behave the way I do...They carry on and misbehave...get drunk if they knew how, when they can't have what they want. When they feel unwanted or insecure or unloved."
- "Bill's in love with Margo Channing. He's fought with her, worked with her, and loved her. But ten years from now, Margo Channing will have ceased to exist. And what's left will be - what?"
- "Those [eight] years stretch as the years go on. I've seen it happen too often."
- "About Eve, I've acted pretty disgracefully toward her... At best, let's say I've been oversensitive to her...to the fact that she's so young, so feminine and so helpless, too so many things I want to be for Bill."
- "There's one career all females have in common - whether we like it or not: being a woman. Sooner or later, we've got to work at it, no matter how many other careers we've had or wanted." And, in the last analysis, nothing is any good unless you can look up just before dinner or turn around in bed - and there he is. Without that, you're not a woman. You're something with a French provincial office or a - a book full of clippings, but you're not a woman. Slow curtain. The End."

EVE HARRINGTON

- "...acting and make believe began to fill up my life more and more. It got so I couldn't tell the real from the unreal. Except that the unreal seemed more real to me." - Eve
- "I think that part of Miss Channing's greatness lies in her ability to pick the best plays."
- "When you're a secretary in a brewery, it's pretty hard to make-believe you're anything else. Everything is beer."
- "And then one night, Margo Channing came to play in Remembrance and I went to see it. Well, here I am."
- "If nothing else, there's applause... like waves of love pouring over the footlights and wrapping you up."

- "I'll never forget this night as long as I live, and I'll never forget you for making it possible."
- "Lloyd loves me, I love him...I'm in love with Lloyd...Oh Addison, won't it be just perfect? Lloyd and I - there's no telling how far we can go. He'll write great plays for me, I'll make them great."
- "To know, every night, that different hundreds of people love you. They smile, and their eyes shine. You've pleased them. They want you. You belong. Just that alone is worth anything."
- "I'm afraid Mr. De Witt would find me boring before too long."
- (To Bill): "[The makeup's] for you."
- "One pretty good performance by an understudy - it'll be forgotten by tomorrow."
- (to DeWitt) "You take charge."
- (To Karen) "If I play Cora, Addison will never tell what happened, in or out of print. A simple exchange of favors. I'm so happy I can do something for you at long last."
- (To Karen) "Your friendship with Margo - your deep, close friendship. What would happen to it, do you think, if she knew the cheap trick you played on her for my benefit?"
- (To Karen) "How long...before people forgot what happened and trusted you again? ...it would be so much easier for everyone concerned if I would play Cora."
- (To Karen) "I'd do much more for a part that good."
- "Isn't it strange...? I thought I'd be panic-stricken, want to run away or something. Instead, I can't wait for tonight to come, to come and go"
- "[Tomorrow]" will bring me everything I've ever wanted. The end of an old road. The beginning of a new one...paved with...stars"
- "The setting wasn't romantic, but Lloyd was...He'd left Karen."
- (To DeWitt) "Champion to champion."
- "I had to get in to meet Margo! I had to say something, be somebody, make her like me!"

ADDISON DeWITT

- "... the highest honor our theater knows - the Sarah Siddons Award for Distinguished Achievement"
- "Minor awards are for such as the writer and director since their function is merely to construct a tower so that the world can applaud a light which flashes on top of it."
- "...no brighter light has ever dazzled the eye than Eve Harrington."
- "My native habitat is the theater. In it, I toil not, neither do I spin. I am a critic and commentator. I am essential to the theater."
- (About Karen Richards) "Nothing in her background or breeding should have brought her any closer to the stage than Row E, Center. However, during her senior year at Radcliffe, Lloyd Richards lectured on the drama."
- "There are in general two types of theatrical producers. One has a great many wealthier friends who will risk a tax deductible loss. This type is interested in art. The other is one to whom each production means potential ruin or fortune. This type is out to make a buck."
- "Margo Channing is a Star of the Theater...Margo is a great Star. A true star. She never was or will be anything less or anything else."
- "Time has been good to Eve. Life goes where she goes. She's the profiled, covered, revealed, reported. What she eats and what she wears and whom she knows and where she was, and when and where she's going...You all know all about Eve."
- "Dear Margo. You were an unforgettable Peter Pan. You must play it again soon."
- "Every now and then some elder statesman of the theater or cinema assures the public that actors and actresses are just plain folks. Ignoring the fact that their greatest attraction to the public is their complete lack of resemblance to normal human beings."
- *[Margo reading Addison's column:]* "I am once more available for dancing in the streets and shouting from the housetops. I thought *that* one went out with [Wollcott](#). Miss Harrington had much to tell and these columns shall report her faithfully about the lamentable practice in our theater of permitting...mature actresses to continue playing roles requiring a youth and vigor which they retain but a dim memory...about the understandable reluctance on the part of our entrenched first ladies of the stage to encourage, shall we say, younger

actresses about Miss Harrington's own long and supported struggle for opportunity."

- "I have lived in the theater as a Trappist monk lives in his faith. I have no other world; no other life"
- "...once in a great while, I experience that moment of revelation for which all true believers wait and pray. You were one. Jeanne Eagels another...there are others, three or four. Eve Harrington will be among them."
- "We all have abnormality in common. We're a breed apart from the rest of humanity, we theatre folk; We are the original displaced personalities."
- "As always with women who try to find out things, she told more than she learned."
- "That I should want you at all suddenly strikes me as the height of improbability"
- "You're an improbable person, Eve, and so am I. We have that in common. Also a contempt for humanity, an inability to love and be loved, insatiable ambition - and talent. We deserve each other"
- "...you realize and you agree how completely you belong to me?"
- (To Miss Casswell) "Do you see that man? That's Max Fabian, the producer. Now go and do yourself some good."
- "You have a point. An idiotic one, but a point."
- (To Miss Casswell) "I can see your career rising in the east like the sun."
- (To Margo) "You're maudlin and full of self-pity"
- *[about Eve]* "It wasn't a reading. It was a performance. Brilliant, vivid, something made of music and fire."
- "In time, she'll be what you are."
- (To Eve) "I think the time has come for you to shed some of your humility. It is just as false not to blow your horn at all as it is to blow it too loudly."
- "We all come into this world with our little egos, equipped with individual horns. Now if we don't blow them, who else will?"

- “It, [one pretty good performance by an understudy], needn't be [forgotten by tomorrow]”
- “I believe I will [take charge].”
- “And tomorrow morning, you will have won your beachhead on the shores of immortality.”
- “You could sleep now, couldn't you?... The mark of a true killer.”
- “Sleep tight, rest easy, and come out fighting”
- “There never was and there never will be another like you”
- “Is it possible, even conceivable, that you've confused me with that gang of backward children you play tricks on? That you have the same contempt for me as you have for them?”
“Look closely, Eve. It's time you did. I am Addison De Witt. I am nobody's fool. Least of all – yours”
- “It's important right now that we talk - killer to killer...with me, you're no champion. You're stepping way up in class.”
- “I've come here to tell you that you will not marry Lloyd or anyone else for that matter because I will not permit it...after tonight, you will *belong* to me.”
- “I don't enjoy putting it as bluntly as this, I assumed you'd take it for granted that you and I...”
- “Now remember as long as you live, never to laugh at me. At anything or anyone else, but never at me.”
- “San Francisco has no Shubert Theater. You've never been to San Francisco! That was a stupid lie, easy to expose, not worthy of you.”

KAREN RICHARDS

- “Then stop being a star. And stop treating your guests as your supporting cast...It's about time Margo realized that what's attractive on stage need not necessarily be attractive off.”
- *[to Eve, who is upset]* “The reason is Margo, and don't try to figure it out. Einstein couldn't.”
- “That boot in the rear to Margo. Heaven knows she had one coming. From me, from Lloyd, from Eve, Bill, Max, and so on. We'd all felt those size 5's of

hers often enough."

- "It would all seem perfectly legitimate. And there were only two people in the world who would know."
- "...the boot would land where it would do the most good for all concerned."
- "...it was no more than a perfectly harmless joke that Margo herself would be the first to enjoy. And no reason why she shouldn't be told about it - in time."
- "That cynicism you refer to I acquired the day I discovered I was different from little boys."
- "Lloyd never got around somehow to asking whether it was all right with me for Eve to play Cora."
- "I'd never known Bill and Lloyd to fight as bitterly and often and always over some business for Eve... I'd never known Lloyd to meddle as much with Bill's directing"
- "It seemed to me I had known always that it would happen, and here it was. I felt helpless, that helplessness you feel when you have no talent to offer - outside of loving your husband. How could I compete? Everything Lloyd loved about me, he had gotten used to long ago."
- "You're Margo, just Margo."
- "Margo, Bill is all of eight years younger than you."
- "You are not to consider giving that contemptible little worm the part of Cora."
- "Margo Channing's not been exactly a compromise all these years. Why, half the playwrights in the world would give their shirts for that particular compromise."
- "It strikes me that Eve's disloyalty and ingratitude must be contagious."

LLOYD RICHARDS

- *[about Eve]* "I like that girl, that quality of quiet graciousness."
- "It's Addison from start to finish. It drips with his brand of venom. Taking advantage of a kid like that, twisting her words, making her say what he wanted her to say."

- "There are very few moments in life as good as this. Let's remember it. To each of us and all of us, never have we been more close, may we never be farther apart."
- "The atmosphere is very MacBeth-ish...what has, or is about to, happen?"
- "She can play *Peck's Bad Boy* all she wants and who's to stop her? Who's to give her that boot in the rear she needs and deserves?"
- "Actresses never die; the stars never die and never change."
- "I shall never understand the weird process by which a body with a voice suddenly fancies itself as a mind. Just when exactly does an actress decide they're her words she's saying and her thoughts she's expressing?"
- (About Margo) "It's about time the piano realize it has not written the concerto!"
- "For once to write something and have it realized completely. For once not to compromise."
- "All this fuss and hysteria because an impulsive kid got carried away by excitement and the conniving of a professional manure-slinger named De Witt. She apologized, didn't she?"
- (To Karen) "That bitter cynicism of yours is something you've acquired since you left Radcliffe."

BIRDIE COONAN

- "I haven't got a union. I'm slave labor."
- "she's studyin' you, like you was a play or a book or a set of blueprints. How you walk, talk, eat, think, sleep."
- "When she gets like this... all of a sudden she's playin' Hamlet's mother"
- "I'm sorry if I hurt your feelings, kid. It's just my way of talkin'"
- "I closed the first half for eleven years an' you know it!"
- "...next to a tenor, a wardrobe woman is the touchiest thing in show business"

BILL SAMPSON

- "What book of rules says the theater exists only within some ugly buildings crowded into one square mile of New York City? Or London, Paris, or

Vienna?"

- "A flea circus. Also opera. Also rodeos, carnivals, ballets, Indian tribal dances, Punch and Judy, a one-man band - all theater. Wherever there's magic and make-believe and an audience - there's theater."
- "...you don't like them all - why should you? The theater's for everybody - you included, but not exclusively - so don't approve or disapprove. It may not be your theater, but it's theater for somebody, somewhere...It's just that there's so much bourgeois in this ivory green room they call the theater."
- (To Margo) "As of this moment, you're six years old."
- (To Margo) "You know what I feel about this age obsession of yours. And now this ridiculous attempt to whip yourself up into a jealous froth because I spent ten minutes with a stage-struck kid."
- "How can you take offense at a kid trying in every way to be as much like her ideal as possible?"
- "This is my cue to take you in my arms and reassure you, but I'm not going to; I'm too mad"
- "Darling, there are certain characteristics for which you are famous onstage and off. I love you for some of them in spite of others. I haven't let those become too important. They're part of your equipment for getting along in what is laughingly called our environment. You have to keep your teeth sharp, all right. But I will not have you sharpen them on me - or on Eve."
- "When you start judging an idealistic, dreamy-eyed kid by the barroom benzedrine standards of this megalomaniac society, I won't have it."
- "Eve Harrington has never by a word, a look, or a suggestion indicated anything to me but her adoration for you and her happiness at our being in love... to intimate anything else doesn't spell jealousy to me. It spells out paranoiac insecurity that you should be ashamed of."
- "To be a good actor or actress or anything else in the theatre means wanting to be that more than anything else in the world."
- "[To be a good actor] means concentration of desire or ambition, and sacrifice such as no other profession demands"
- (About being in the theatre) "...the man or woman who accepts those terms can't be ordinary, can't be just someone. To give so much for almost always so little."

- "I am sick and tired of these paranoiac outbursts"
- "You've got to stop hurting yourself and me and the two of us by these paranoiac tantrums."
- "I love you! You're a beautiful and an intelligent woman and a great actress... at the peak of her career."
- "You have every reason for happiness. But due to some strange, uncontrollable, unconscious drive, you permit the slightest action of a kid ...like Eve to turn you into an hysterical, screaming harpy."
- "I'm in love with Margo...And I'm as curious as the next man...The only thing - what I go after, I want to go after. I don't want it to come after me."
- "The so-called art of acting is not one for which I have a particularly-high regard"

MISS CASSWELL

- "You won't bore [Mr DeWitt], honey. You won't even get a chance to talk."
- "Now there's something a girl could make sacrifices for."
- "Well, I can't yell, 'Oh, butler!' can I? Maybe somebody's name is Butler."

PHOEBE

- "[I want to have an award like that] more than anything else in the world."

OLD ACTOR GIVING AWARD TO EVE

- "We know her humility, her devotion, her loyalty to her art, her love, her deep and abiding love for us, for what we are and what we do, the theater. She has had one wish, one prayer, one dream - to belong to us. Tonight, her dream has come true. And henceforth, we shall dream the same of her. Eve. Eve the Golden Girl, the Cover Girl, the Girl Next Door, the Girl on the Moon."