

On Jack Nicholson  
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Below are things the actor Jack Nicholson said to journalists over the span of his lengthy career in films. In one instance it is something a friend attributed to him. The source: Dennis McDougal, *Five Easy Decades: How Jack Nicholson Became the Biggest Movie Star in Modern Times* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2008).

I became conscious of very early emotions of not being wanted—feeling I was a problem to my family as an infant.

I'm a World War II baby and my whole life, no matter what the paper said or what Mom said or what the school said, every day I felt I moved a little closer to the truth. TV changed everything. Truth is literally altered by this phenomenon.

I'm the only one between me and what I want.

Everything counts.

“Jack was centered always,” she [an early love interest] said. “He used to tell me I had rabbit ears.” By “rabbit ears,” Jack meant that Georgiana worried too much about others’ opinions. Early on in their relationship, he had warned her of the crippling effects of critics and advised her to remain focused and to refuse defeat.

I don't like collectivism. It's the main thing wrong on a mass sociological basis.

Go fuck yourself.

You only lie to two people in your life: your girlfriend and the police. Everybody else you tell the truth to.

You only have to have had an International House of Pancakes breakfast before it was conglomerated and after to know the difference

Whenever a young woman asked to dance, Jack would growl,  
“Wrong verb, honey.”

I behave well in some situations, and I feel kind of good about it,  
and sometimes I’m liable to take out all the repressed anger on the  
ice cream man.

I felt in my heart every time I was in the sublime sexual embrace  
that in order to feel it fully you had to allow for its full reality.

Behind every holier-than-thou sanctimonious Dan Quayle type  
[former Vice-President], I’ll show you a man who pays two  
transvestites to piss on his face.

You can feel the difference when you make love and there’s love  
there, and when you make love and there’s not love there. I’m not a  
Victorian, but a fact’s a fact.

There is no away. You can’t run.

I don’t dance.

You know, in the old days after twenty minutes I would have tried to  
fuck you.

Nature forces you to be a better person.

I’m still in love with all the women I ever loved.

Just because you are sixty or seventy doesn’t mean you are less  
vital.

I get lonely. Not lonely the way I might have been when I was  
twenty-five and it would have filled me with angst. But I wish I had  
a partner.

From now on I might fall in love with myself.

I do pray. I pray to something . . . up there. I have a God sense. It’s  
part of being human, I guess.

I can't see myself too clearly these days when I look in the mirror. Sometimes I go ahead and put the glasses on."

I haven't seen the Pyramids yet. I never hit .380 in the American League. I never became a master chef. I never became fluent in another language. I never wrote a novel. I used to think I was going to do all those things.

One of my vows now is not to talk about my personal life in public.

Asked if his life had gone quickly, Jack didn't hesitate. "It's been like smoke through a keyhole."