# Jane Smith's Translation Dictionary

1st edn

HOME | ABOUT | SUBMIT NEW ENTRY

## of Everyday Lies, Insults, Manipulations, and Clueless Comments

Where do you think you're going?
1. Stay here!
2. I don't approve of where you're going.

Why are you still single?
1. There's nothing wrong with you! (And that's the only reason not to be married. Having something wrong with you. "Wrong" defined as anything a man doesn't want.)
See also "When are you going to get married?"

Whatever.
1. I don't know what you just said.
2. I don't understand what you just said.
3. I don't agree with what you just said.

You got a problem with this?
1. My testosterone is high and I want to fight.

You have issues.
1. You think more than I do. About everything.

You have no sense of humour.
1. You refuse to accept my mockery. Of you.

You know what your problem is?
1. Actually it's me who has the problem, but I'm qualified to identify your problems, and I always take the opportunity to do so. Clearly, I'm trying to get

Jass Richards

# Jane Smith's Translation Dictionary

of

Everyday Lies, Insults,

Manipulations,

and Clueless Comments

1st edn

Jass Richards

Magenta

Jane Smith's Translation Dictionary
of Everyday Lies, Insults, Manipulations, and Clueless Comments
© 2022 Jass Richards

www.jassrichards.com
jassrichards@gmail.com

978-1-926891-59-0 (epub)
978-1-926891-60-6 (pdf)

Published by
Magenta




All rights reserved. Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written permission of both the copyright owner and the above publisher of this book.

## Also by Jass Richards

### fiction

(the Rev and Dylan series)
*The ReGender App*
*License to Do That*
*The Blasphemy Tour*
*The Road Trip Dialogues*

(the Brett series)
*Dogs Just Wanna Have Fun*
*This Will Not Look Good on My Resume*

*A Philosopher, a Psychologist, and an Extraterrestrial Walk into a Chocolate Bar*

*TurboJetslams: Proof #29 of the Non-Existence of God*

### stageplays

*Substitute Teacher from Hell*

### screenplays

*Two Women, Road Trip, Extraterrestrial*

### performance pieces

*Balls*

### nonfiction

*Too Stupid to Visit*

Jane Smith is a character In my novel *A Philosopher, a Psychologist, and an Extraterrestrial Walk into a Chocolate Bar* (blurb below). And she started this. I've continued it. And everyone else is supposed to finish it. Well, add to it. (It's unlikely it'll ever be finished.) **Send additions – new definitions to the entries already listed and/or completely new entries – for future editions to me at** jassrichards@gmail.com**. (Additionally, you can add your entries to the** tumblr page **I set up,** hoping it would become viral like "Everyday Sexism" and "Why I'm a Feminist" and #MeToo. Sadly, it did not.)

> *A Philosopher, a Psychologist, and an Extraterrestrial Walk into a Chocolate Bar*: When a self-appointed independent activist and her office-temp-with-a-doctorate buddy embark on a quest for a chocolate bar (a bar that serves not alcohol, but chocolate – in all its deliciously decadent forms), they pick up a hitchhiking extraterrestrial who's stopped on Earth to ask for directions. Trying to explain Earl (Earth), confronting sexism (rather like bashing your head against a jellyfish), and committing assorted outrageous acts and everyday rebellions, they help "X" find the information she needs to get back home – and go with her – to become chocolate bartenders. A (way) off-the-beaten-path first contact story.

Jane also started a list titled "And here's something else that would never happen to a man …" – which I include at the end of the dictionary (it's also in Sexist Shit that Pisses Me Off, 2e). I created a tumblr page for this as well, similarly hoping it would become viral, but, similarly, it did not. Pity. (But it's not too late! **Add your additions to the page *and* send them to me for future editions of the *Dictionary*.**)

# CONTENTS

All right, you've had your fun.
Are you looking for a fight?
Because I said so.
Bitch!
Call if you need anything.
Calm down.
Case closed!
Cut me some slack!
Do me a favor.
Don't be ridiculous.
Don't be so judgmental.
Don't be so sensitive.
Don't be stupid.
Don't be such a bleeding heart.
Don't do anything stupid.
Don't get angry.
Don't get upset.
Don't overthink this.
Don't psychoanalyze me!
Don't say that!
Don't take it personally.
Don't take this personally.
Don't talk to me like that!
Don't worry.
Enough!
Everyone's entitled to their own opinion.
…for no good reason.
Fuck off!
Fuck you!
Give me a break!

Have a good one!
Have a nice day!
Help me out here!
How are you?
I believe …
I can't …
I didn't mean to.
I don't know.
I don't know what to say.
I don't know what you're talking about.
I don't need this!
I don't think this is really the right time for …
I don't want to argue with you.
I don't want to get into that right now.
I don't want to hear another word about it!
I have no choice.
I have to …
I have to go.
I know for a fact that …
I love you.
I need …
I need you to …
I'd like to help, but …
If we don't do it, someone else will.
I'm a Christian.
I'm bored.
I'm [doing X].
I'm busy.
I'm going to have to …
I'm just trying to help.
I'm sorry you feel that way.
I'm working here –
… inappropriate behavior …
It'll be fine. Everything will be okay.
It was just a joke.

It's okay.
It's out of my hands.
I've got a business to run.
I've got a job to do.
I've got a right to …
I've got work to do!
I've had just about enough of this!
I was only trying to help.
Just tell me what to say and I'll say it.
Let me help.
Let me take care of it.
Lighten up!
Listen here!
Listen to me!
Mind your own business!
Miss –
Mrs. –
My bad.
My hands are tied.
Relax.
Settle down.
She's frigid.
Slut!
Son –
Sorry.
Sorry, that's impossible.
Stay here.
That's bullshit.
That's enough!
That's going a little too far.
That's none of my business.
That's none of your business.
That's not fair!
That's not gonna happen.
The fact of the matter is …

The Lord will provide.
This is boring.
This is bullshit!
This is not the time …
This is ridiculous!
Trust me.
… unprofessional behavior …
Wake up. This is the real world.
Watch your language!
Watch your mouth!
We …
We all have to take responsibility for …
We need to talk.
We were just fooling around.
We were just having fun.
Well, I guess I'd better let you go …
What?
What are you, a boy scout?
What do you think you're doing?
What do you want me to say?
What seems to be the problem?
What the hell are you doing?
What the hell were you thinking?
What's your problem?
When are you going to get married?
Where do you think you're going?
Why are you still single?
Yeah, whatever.
You got a problem with this?
You have issues.
You have no sense of humour.
You know what your problem is?
You lost me on that one, sport.
You seem weird.
You will do as I say!

You wouldn't understand.

… young lady …

… young man …

You're a real ball-buster, you know that?

You're a real nympho, you know that?

You're crazy!

You're full of shit!

You're not listening to me!

You're out of your mind!

You're too sensitive.

## All right, you've had your fun.

1. Stop what you're doing.

    a. because I don't like it.
    b. because it's annoying me.
    c. because it's not in my best interests. (And everything everyone does should be for ME.)

(Calling it "fun" trivializes what you're doing. Grown-ups don't have fun. They work.) (Calling it "fun" infantilizes you. Only children play, have fun.) (Not that I'm conscious of that. It's just something that I, as a man, learned to do. Trivialize and infantilize. The other. Especially women.)

## Are you looking for a fight?

1. *I'm* looking for a fight. (But I want to put the blame for starting it on you.)

## Because I said so.

1. I don't know why. (I'm not that smart. I typically have no good reason for the things I say and do.)

2. Doesn't matter why. I just want you to obey me.

## Bitch!

1. Waa-aa-ah!

## Call if you need anything.

1. Just don't call *me*.

2. I need to be needed.

## Calm down.

1. Your anger/distress is upsetting me.

2. As a woman, you are prone to hysterics. (And as a man, it is my job to control you.) (Because god knows, I can't control myself.)

See "Don't get angry."

## Case closed!

1. I'm losing.

See "I don't want to argue with you" and "I don't want to hear another word about it!"

## Cut me some slack!

1. I've had a hard, hard life. My third wife left me, my kids don't know me, I just lost my job, and my truck won't start.

See "Give me a break!"

## Do me a favor.

1. Do this for *me*.

2. As a man, I'm entitled. To your favours. (Otherwise I'd say "*Could you please* do me a favor?")

(Calling it a "favor" pressures you to do it: it suggests that it's just a little bitty thing, so you'll feel mean and stingy if you *don't* do it. Even though, of course, I could be asking you to get me a job or perjure yourself. In fact, I'm *probably* asking you for exactly *not* just a little bitty thing. If I'd said "Do this momentous thing that will cost you your life as you know it – for me," you probably wouldn't do it. Not that I'm aware of any of this.)

## Don't be ridiculous.

1. Don't be unconventional. (People who don't conform to the norms make those of us who do nervous. We start thinking that maybe there's something we're not considering. Like, maybe, independent thought. Or ethics. Or joy.)

## Don't be so judgmental.

1. Don't judge *me*. Just let me get away with anything, everything. Above all, don't make me feel like I've done something wrong.

2. It makes me look even more lazy and stupid.

## Don't be so sensitive.

1. I want to believe that my actions have no effect whatsoever on anyone.

2. Don't reveal by comparison what a dull-headed emotionally-challenged thug I am.

See "You're too sensitive."

## Don't be stupid.

1. You're about to do something I don't want you to do. (Anything I don't want is stupid.) (I am the center of the universe.)

2. Don't be unconventional. (See "Don't be ridiculous.")

See "Don't do anything stupid."

## Don't be such a bleeding heart.

1. Empathy gets in my way. (It makes me realize that what I'm doing is morally unjustifiable.) (Which is why I discourage it whenever possible.)

## Don't do anything stupid.

1. Don't do anything to change the status quo. Because I'm benefitting from the status quo.

See "Don't be stupid."

## Don't get angry.

1. Don't react in a way reserved for men. (Anger is intimidating. Women aren't allowed to be intimidating. It completely undermines the house of cards whereby men are on the top.)

See "Calm down."

## Don't get upset.

1. Don't make me have to do something. (The whole "Manly men must come to the aid of women in distress" is something I haven't bothered to question.)

## Don't overthink this.

1. Don't think about this at all. (Because if you do, you'll see how utterly lame it is.)

2. Don't think more than me. (It shatters my illusions.)

## Don't psychoanalyze me!

1. I have no insight whatsoever into my personality, my motives, or my desires, and you shouldn't either.

2. Don't try to understand why I do what I do. Because if you do, you'll discover that

    a. I'm really pretty shallow.
    b. I'm really messed up.
    c. both of the above.

## Don't say that!

1. I don't want to hear that! (And an admonishment, a moral reprimand, nay, a *command*, has more weight than a simple statement of what I do or do not want.) (And it's more likely to make *you* the bad guy, whether or not you heed the reprimand. And me, by default, the good guy.)

## Don't take it personally.

1. I didn't intend it personally.

    a. Because I don't recognize you as a person. You're just a means to my ends.
    b. I'm that insensitive.
    c. Because I'm incapable of being personal. (Because I deny, or haven't developed, any of the stuff that makes me a person.) (Like a personality.) (And a morality.) (Reflective consciousness.)

## Don't take this personally.

See "Don't take it personally."

## Don't talk to me like that!

1. Waa-aa-ah!

## Don't worry.

1. Don't anticipate problems that I may cause.

2. Don't anticipate problems that I may have to do something about.

3. Don't nag. (See 1. and 2.)

4. Don't think. Especially about stuff I haven't thought of. (See 1. and 2.)

## Enough!

1. I don't like what you're doing!

See "That's enough!"

## Everyone's entitled to their own opinion.

1. You're an asshole.

2. I don't know how to determine whose opinion is better, is more supported by evidence and argument.

3. I don't want to determine whose opinion is better – because it's probably not mine.

## … for no good reason.

1. I don't know the reason. (I suppose I could've asked, but then I'd risk finding out that there was, in fact, a good reason. And since I don't like what was done, I'd rather believe there wasn't.)

## Fuck off!

See "All right, you've had your fun"; "Are you looking for a fight?"; "Because I said so"; "Call if you need anything"; "Calm down"; "Case closed!"; "Cut me some slack!"; "Don't be ridiculous"; "Don't be so sensitive"; "Don't be stupid"; "Don't be such a bleeding heart"; "Don't do anything stupid"; "Don't overthink this"; "Don't psychoanalyze me!"; "Don't say that!"; "Don't take it personally"; "Don't take this personally"; "Don't talk to me like that!"; "Don't worry"; "Enough!"; "Everyone's entitled to their own opinion"; "Fuck you!"; "Give me a break!"; "Have a good one!"; "Have a nice day!"; "Help me out here!"; "How are you?"; "I can't…"; "I don't know"; "I don't know what to say"; "I don't know what you're talking about"; "I don't need this!"; "I don't think this is really the right time for…"; "I don't want to argue with you"; "I don't want to get into that right now"; "I don't want to hear another word about it!"; "I have no choice"; "I have to…"; "I have to go…"; "I know for a fact that…"; "I love you"; "I'd like to help, but…"; "I'm bored"; "I'm busy"; "I'm going to have to…"; "I'm just trying to help"; "I'm sorry you feel that way"; "I'm working here…"; "It'll be fine. Everything will be okay"; "It's out of my hands"; "I've got a business to run"; "I've got a job to do"; "I've got a right to …"; "I've got work to do!"; "I've had just about enough of this!"; "Let me help"; "Let me take care of it"; "Lighten up!"; "Listen here!"; "Listen to me!"; "Mind your own business!"; "My bad"; "My hands are tied"; "Relax"; "Settle down"; "Sorry"; "Sorry, that's impossible"; "Stay here"; "That's bullshit"; "That's enough!"; "That's going a little too far"; "That's none of my business"; "That's none of your business"; "That's not fair!"; "That's not gonna happen"; "The fact of the matter is…"; "This is boring"; "This is bullshit!"; "This is ridiculous!"; "Trust me"; "…unprofessional behavior…"; "Wake up. This is the real world"; "Watch your language!"; "Watch your mouth!"; "We all have to take responsibility for…"; "We were just fooling around"; "Well, I guess I'd better let you go…"; "What are you, a boy scout?"; "What do you think you're doing?"; "What seems to be the problem?"; "What the hell are you doing?"; "What the hell were you thinking?"; "What's your problem?"; "Where do you think you're going?"; "Yeah, whatever"; "You got a problem with this?"; "You know what your problem is?"; "You lost me on that one, sport"; "You will do as I say!"; "You wouldn't understand"; "…young lady…"; "…young man…"; "You're crazy!"; "You're full of shit!"; "You're out of your mind!"; "You're too sensitive"

## Fuck you!

See "Fuck off!"

## Give me a break!

1. Give me an advantage, don't treat me fairly, don't give me what I deserve, make me an exception. (Because I'm not good enough to succeed when the playing field is level, when I have to follow the same rules as everyone else.)

See "Cut me some slack!"

## Have a good one!

See "Have a nice day!"

## Have a nice day!

1. Goodbye.

2. Fuck off.

3. I am the most insincere and inane person you'll ever meet.

## Help me out here!

1. I'm a man, and being helped increases my status. (If I were a woman, needing help would decrease my status. Go figure.)

See "Give me a break!"

## How are you?

1. I acknowledge your presence. (But only because the social pressure to do so is too great for me to resist.)

## I believe …

1. Because faith is so much easier than thought. (I don't have to have reasons. I don't have to have actual evidence.)

## I can't …

1. I can. I just don't want to. (But saying "I can't" makes me seem powerless and thus absolves me of responsibility.) (Furthermore, "I can't" is harder to challenge than "I won't" because it leaves no room for the possibility that I can.)

## I didn't mean to.

1. I am incapable of forming any intent. That requires a higher order of consciousness than I have.

## I don't know.

1. I don't care.

2. It's not my responsibility.

## I don't know what to say.

1. I'm too lazy to figure out what to say – to think about what you've said and/or to figure out whether you're seeking compassion or confirmation or information or advice or what.

2. I don't know what you want me to say. (And, really, words are just instrumental; they don't actually *mean* anything.)

## I don't know what you're talking about.

1. I'm stupid.

2. I know perfectly well what you're talking about. I just don't want to talk about it. Because I'm in the wrong. And I'm too childish to admit it.

## I don't need this!

1. You exist solely to provide what I need. And right now you're not doing that.

## I don't think this is really the right time for …

1. I'm avoiding you/this. And will continue to do so until hell freezes over.

See also "This is not the time …"

## I don't want to argue with you.

1. I don't want to discover that my opinion on this matter is indefensible.

See "Case closed!"

## I don't want to get into that right now.

1. I don't want to get into that ever.

See "I don't think this is really the right time for …" and "I don't want to argue with you."

## I don't want to hear another word about it!

1. I'm in the wrong.

2. You're upsetting me. (Because you're disagreeing with me.)

## I have no choice.

1. I'm too stupid to see that there are lots of options here.

2. I want to do this. But it's bad. So to avoid blame, I'm denying free will.

See "It's out of my hands."

## I have to …

1. I don't *have* to do this. I don't have to do anything. But "have to" implies necessity. (See "I need …") (In truth, everything is conditional: *if* I want to keep my job, I have to pressure you to buy more than you need or want; *if* I want to stay alive, I have to eat. But even then, see "I have no choice.")

## I have to go …

1. I want to get away from you because

    a. you're boring me to death.
    b. you're a disgusting person.
    c. I have something more important to be doing.

See "I have to …"

## I know for a fact that …

1. I'm guessing it's true. (Because establishing certainty takes a lot of work. And I'm just not up to it. But I want to appear knowledgeable. Because most people equate that with intelligence.) (Furthermore, presenting opinions as facts is how people, typically men, achieve and maintain their status as authorities, experts, founts of wisdom …)

2. I hope it's true.

## I love you.

1. I want you. (For any of a number of reasons.)

2. I need you. (For any of a number of reasons.)

3. I'm sorry.

4. I own you.

5. I'm warning you.

6. I'm begging you.

## I need …

1. I want… (Truth is, I don't *need* anything except food, water, and a bit of shelter. But saying I *need* something makes it so much harder for you to refuse to give it to me because *needs* are, well, things one needs – they're *required*. Simply put, needs take priority to wants – and I want what I want to have priority.)

## I need you to …

See "I need …"

## I'd like to help, but …

1. I don't really want to.

See "I can't."

## If we don't do it, someone else will.

1. I want to do it.

## I'm a Christian.

1. I'm a good person.

## I'm bored.

1. I'm boring. I can't amuse myself.

See "This is boring."

## I'm [doing X].

1. I'm hiring someone to [remodel the kitchen, add a room over the garage, put on a new roof … ]. (But I'm taking credit for doing it myself – because real men *do* stuff.)

2. My assistant is [doing X].

## I'm busy.

1. You're dismissed.

2. I'm running away.

## I'm going to have to …

See "I have to …"

## I'm just trying to help.

1. Now that you've done all the ground work, the grunt work, I'm trying to take over so I get all the credit.

See "Let me help."

## I'm sorry you feel that way.

1. I refuse to recognize that you think that way. (Actually, I refuse to recognize that you think – which is why I'm dismissing your opinion as something emotional. I refuse to recognize that you have reasons for your opinion, that you have an argument to support what you're saying. Because then I'd have to understand that argument. And possibly find that it's stronger than my argument. No, wait, I don't have an argument for my position. It's just the way I feel.)

## I'm working here –

See "I've got work to do!"

## … inappropriate behavior …

1. I don't like what you're doing. (Can't say why, exactly, I just don't like it.) (Possibly because it goes again my best interests. Possibly because I've just never seen anyone do it that way before, and novelty scares me.)

## It'll be fine; everything will be okay.

1. I *hope* it'll be fine; I *would like* everything to be okay. (And my wishes command the universe. I am a god.)

    a. Because this is my idea.
    b. Because otherwise I'd have to do something about it. To make it fine; to make it okay.

2. I have no idea whether or not it will be fine, whether or not everything will be okay. Essentially, I'm making unfounded predictions; I have no basis whatsoever for these predictions. I'm just telling you what you want to hear.

    a. Because then you'll like me. (And have sex with me.)
    b. Because I think you find that reassuring, comforting – and I'm your daddy.

## It was just a joke.

1. I don't want to be held responsible for it.

2. I didn't think it through.

## It's okay.

1. I don't want to hear your objections.

2. Your objections are unimportant.

3. Your objections are irrelevant.

See "It'll be fine."

## It's out of my hands.

See "I have no choice."

## I've got a business to run.

1. Whatever I want gets priority. Whatever I want is immune to objection. I've got the right-of-way. (Running a business legitimizes *anything*.)

## I've got a job to do.

1. You can't challenge me. (One's job is always exempt from ethical inquiry.)

See "I've got a business to run."

See also "I've got work to do."

## I've got a right to …

1. I want … (I make no distinction between what I have a right to and what I want.) (Guess that means I think I have a right to whatever I want.)

## I've got work to do!

1. I don't want to talk to you anymore. And *work* trumps everything. It's an all-purpose excuse: when I've got work to do, I don't have to do *anything* else.

## I've had just about enough of this!

See "That's enough!"

## I was only trying to help.

1. I was too lazy to anticipate the effects of my behavior.

## Just tell me what to say and I'll say it.

1. Heaven forbid I should think for myself. As a man, I am supremely unaccustomed to introspection. Simply put, I have no idea what I think. About pretty much anything.

See "What do you want me to say?"

## Let me help.

1. You need help. (I'm assuming you're incompetent.)

See "I'm just trying to help."

## Let me take care of it.

1. I want to get the credit for it.

2. I want to feel powerful.

3. I want you to be dependent on me.

## Lighten up!

1. Be shallow and superficial. Like me.

2. I don't want to talk about that now. Or ever. You're presenting me with some truth I don't want to face.

3. I'm not intelligent enough or informed enough to talk about that. So talk about something simpler, something I can understand.

## Listen here!

1. I'm about to give an order.

## Listen to me!

1. Agree with me!

## Mind your own business!

1. Let me do whatever the fuck I want.

## Miss –

1. Young female. (Subordinate.)

2. Unmarried female. (Subordinate.)

## Mrs. –

1. Married female. (Unimportant.)

## My bad.

1. I did it, it was wrong, and I don't give a flying fuck.

## My hands are tied.

1. I'm pretending that I'm not making a decision here. (Because then I won't have to take responsibility for it.) (Because it's a decision with lots of bad consequences for lots of people.) (*Other* people.)

See "I have no choice."

## Relax.

1. Don't resist. Let me do whatever it is I want to do.

## Settle down.

1. Stop annoying me. (The more I infantilize you, the more I seem mature. Go figure, that's what I think.)

See "Calm down."

See also "Don't get angry."

## She's frigid.

1. I'm not doing it right. (But I'll cut off my own balls before I admit that.)

2. She just not into me. (But I'll cut off my own balls before I admit that.)

3. She doesn't enjoy rape. (But that can't be right.)

4. She doesn't get an orgasm from PIV. (But there's no way I'm giving up mine for hers. It takes too long to do her first, and once *I'm* done, I'm, well, done.)

## Slut!

1. You're wearing sexy clothes, so I'm entitled to rape you.

2. You had sex with *another* man, so *I'm* entitled to rape you.

3. You're a woman, so I'm entitled to rape you.

4. You want sex. Women aren't supposed to want sex. Only men are supposed to want sex. Being horny defines men, as men. If women want sex, then, then … ?

## Son –

1. Young male. (Subordinate.)

## Sorry –

1. I'd do it again in a heartbeat.

## Sorry, that's impossible.

1. I don't want to do it. (It'll take way too much work.)

2. It's not in my best interests.

See "I can't."

## Stay here.

1. *I* want to be the hero.

2. I don't want you to see me make a fool of myself.

3. My ability to concentrate is so minimal, your presence will make me completely ineffectual.

## That's bullshit!

1. I don't understand what you've just said.

2. You've just exposed a fatal flaw in my argument. But I refuse to admit you're smarter than me.

3. You've just exposed a fatal flaw in me. But I refuse to admit I've got problems. I'm perfect.

See "This is bullshit!" and "You're crazy!"

## That's enough!

1. I don't want to hear any more of what you're saying.

    a. Because I disagree, but don't know why or don't have good reasons for my disagreement.
    b. Because it upsets me, and I don't want to be upset.
    c. Because it's exposing one of my many flaws.

## That's going a little too far.

1. That's going further than I'd like.

2. That's changing the status quo. I benefit from the status quo.

## That's none of my business.

1. I don't know.

2. I don't care.

3. I'm responsible only for me, myself, and I.

## That's none of your business.

1. I don't want you to interfere with my plans. (And nothing I do affects anyone else. Ever.)

2. I don't want you to know. Anything.

## That's not fair!

1. That's not what I want! (I haven't really considered the matter in light of my definition of *fairness*. I don't actually *have* a definition of fairness…)

## That's not gonna happen.

1. *I don't think* that's gonna happen. (Because how the hell do I know? I can't see into the future. But by presenting an opinion as fact, I divert your attention from evidence and reasons. Which I don't have. See "I know for a fact that …")

2. *I don't want* that to happen.

## The fact of the matter is …

1. My unsupported opinion on this matter is … (But since facts add weight and/or importance, I call upon them – whether or not they're actually known.)

## The Lord will provide.

1. I sure as hell don't want to.

## This is boring.

1. Your job is to entertain me. (Especially if you're a woman and I'm a man: by definition, you are entertainment.)

See "I'm bored."

## This is bullshit.

1. I don't like this.

See "That's bullshit."

## This is not the time …

1. You're dismissed. (But since that sounds so condescending, I've made my dismissal sound instead like a reprimand for something inappropriate or for your poor judgment about timing.) (See how I put it on *you*?)

## This is ridiculous!

1. This is making me look ridiculous!

## Trust me.

1. Obey me.

2. I don't have any reasons for what I'm about to do. Certainly no good ones.

3. I have reasons for what I'm about to do, but I'm so linguistically challenged, I can't articulate them.

4. I have reasons for what I'm about to do, but you won't understand them. Because you're a woman.

## … unprofessional behavior …

1. … behavior I don't like …

2. … behavior that doesn't conform to convention …

## Wake up. This is the real world.

1. Morality is for children and adolescents. Adults think of only themselves.

2. Resistance is futile. Assimilate.

## Watch your language!

1. I get upset when I hear certain words (usually it's just an emotional reflex, rather than a reasoned response), and you shouldn't upset me.

See "Don't say that!"

## Watch your mouth!

See "Watch your language!"

## We …

1. I … (But "we" is more compelling – it has the force of the many behind it.) (A persuasive force for those who are quantity-minded.)

2. You … (But "we" suggests that I'm part of this. This good thing.)

## We all have to take responsibility for …

1. It's my fault but I'm certainly not going to admit it.

## We need to talk.

1. I want to scold you.

2. I want to threaten you.

## We were just fooling around.

1. We were just combining DNA to make a human being.

## We were just having fun.

1. We don't want to be held responsible for it.

2. We didn't think it through.

## Well, I guess I'd better let you go …

1. I'm going to hang up or walk away. (But in addition to simply not wanting to talk to you anymore, I need to pretend that I control you, that you can't go unless I let you.) (And by saying "I'd better," I put a moral spin on it – like "letting you go" is the right thing to do.)

## What?

1. I'm stalling for time while I figure out

    a. what you just said. (I don't understand it, but there's no way I'm going to ask for clarification.) (Unless I can make it seem like it's *your* problem – like you haven't explained yourself very well.)

    b. how to answer that question in a way that best serves my interests. (Answering it with the truth doesn't occur to me. Conversation is never about an exchange of truth.)

## What are you, a boy scout?

1. Doing good for others is for kids. Grown-ups are completely self-interested.

## What do you think you're doing?

1. I don't approve of what you're doing.

Adding "Just" (as in "Just what do you think you're doing?") would minimize (even further) what you're doing.

## What do you want me to say?

1. What lie will work here? And by "work," I mean "get me what I want." (That one day you might realize I'm bullshit through and through, and leave, doesn't occur to me.)

See "Just tell me what to say and I'll say it."

## What seems to be the problem?

1. There isn't really any problem here, there just *seems to* be a problem, you just *think* there's a problem, either because you're such a drama queen or because you're such an incompetent twit.

2. There's a really big problem here, but I created it so I'm pretending it doesn't exist. At the very least, I'm pretending I have no prior knowledge of it.

## What the hell are you doing?

1. You have no right to do that!

2. I don't want you to do that!

## What the hell were you thinking?

1. I disapprove. (I don't really care what you were thinking.)

## What's your problem?

1. Why won't you act the way I want you to?

## When are you going to get married?

1. When are you going to grow up? Because for no remotely defensible reason, I consider getting married to be proof of maturity.

2. I made that mistake and have had to live with it; why should *you* be happy?

See also "Why are you still single?"

## Where do you think you're going?

1. Stay here!

2. I don't approve of where you're going.

## Why are you still single?

1. There's nothing wrong with you! (And that's the only reason not to be married. Having something wrong with you. "Wrong" defined as something a man doesn't want.)

See also "When are you going to get married?"

## Yeah, whatever.

1. I don't know what you just said.

2. I don't understand what you just said.

3. I don't agree with what you just said.

## You got a problem with this?

1. My testosterone is high and I want to fight.

## You have issues.

1. You think more than I do. About everything.

## You have no sense of humour.

1. You refuse to accept my mockery. Of you.

## You know what your problem is?

1. Actually it's me who has the problem, but I'm qualified to identify your problems, and I always take the opportunity to do so. (Clearly, I'm trying to get you to *not* focus on *my* problem.)

## You lost me on that one, sport.

1. I don't understand what you just said. (But by calling you "sport," I'm making the whole thing into a kind of game to minimize the importance of my stupidity. Also, by calling you "sport," as I might do my kid, I'm subordinating you – to compensate for any potential loss of status due to my inability to comprehend.)

## You seem weird.

1. You're not smiling. (When said to a woman.) (This is seldom said to a man.)

## You will do as I say!

1. I command you to do as I say.

    a. Because I can't persuade you or convince you with reasons. Because I don't have any. Or I do, but I'm too tired or too lazy or too stupid to figure them out and/or to articulate them.

b. Because I'm insecure and need to be in a position of authority, with the power of command, over *someone*. Even if it's just a kid. (My kid.)

2. I *want* you to do as I say.

## You wouldn't understand.

1. Well, you would – if I explained. But I'd rather you think that it's complicated. That *I'm* complicated. (That would mean I'm intelligent.)

2. There's nothing *to* understand: I have no master plan, no reasons for my actions, no logical argument in support of my position, no motives whatsoever. It's all just an irrational mess.

## … young lady …

1. … subordinate subordinate …

## … young man …

1. … subordinate …

## You're a real ball-buster, you know that?

1. You refuse to feed my delusion that I'm more competent than you, that I'm more important than you, that I'm better than you.

## You're a real nympho, you know that?

1. I'm not the stud I think I am: I don't even know how to make a woman come.

## You're crazy!

1. I don't understand. (Really. I'm too stupid to understand what you just said.) (But rather than admit that, I'll make a face and put the blame, the responsibility, on you. I'll imply or come right out and say that what you've just said is too crazy to make sense.)

2. I don't agree with what you're saying or doing.

3. You're right. (But it puts me in a bad light. So I call you "crazy" in order to marginalize you, dismiss you, de-legitimate you, de-authorize you – to justify my not taking you seriously.)

## You're full of shit!

1. You're right.

## You're not listening to me!

1. You're not agreeing with me!

## You're out of your mind!

See "You're crazy!"

## You're too sensitive.

1. I'm not sensitive enough.

# And here's something else that would never happen to a man …

Many years ago, I attended a talk by the President of the CCLA, and at the end, I approached him about something he'd said or something the CCLA was doing, and I was summarily dismissed. He barely looked at me; his assistant simply waved me away, saying that he had no time for questions now. I suspect that had I been a young man, the President might have considered me a potential member, perhaps, recognizing my initiative, intelligence, and passion, even an up-and-coming protégé, someone to whom he'd extend an invitation to go for a beer, carry on the conversation …

•

I joined the Green Party, and when, at a meeting, I objected to something the leader said, he practically had a heart attack: he started shouting at me, all blustery and red-faced, aggressively jabbing his finger in the air at me … (Geez louise, get a grip!)

•

I was asked to train the guy who would become my supervisor.

•

I was interested in renting or buying a cottage on a river and found something on Kijiji, so I sent a message with a few questions:

> Hello, I'm interested in renting, maybe purchasing …
>
> 1. Is the place powered by generator, propane, or electricity?
>
> 2. Kayaking up the river – how far before I hit rapids or have to walk my kayak through a "rock garden"?

3. Would I see other docks/houses every 100M or so?

4. Is there a sunset view anywhere on the property during July or August?

5. How busy is it during July and August with ATVs and motorboats?

Thanks.

And the guy replied with this:

Too many questions for me to bother with.

Seriously? Five questions. All of which required no more than a one- or two-word answer. And note the dismissive language: "… to bother with." The guy was asking $600/week for rent, $129,000 for sale. And he can't answer five frickin' questions?

My guess is if I were a man, his response would've been quite different. My guess is if I were a man, he would've taken my query SERIOUSLY. Because does he really think someone's going to buy or even rent WITHOUT knowing, for example, the power source?

•

So this guy in our neighborhood has early Alzheimer's and dizzy spells. He was looking for a babysitter (his word) and someone to cook for him and do his cleaning so he doesn't have to go into a home. And he asked me.

I have no experience babysitting. And absolutely no aptitude for it. Yes, I do my own cooking and cleaning, but I have no interest in it, at all, and do as little as possible. So why did he ask me? Probably because I'm a middle-aged woman. Apparently that's what middle-aged women do, that's what we are, that's what we're for.

Yes, I've been friendly with him, stopping to chat or at least wave when I walk by (as a result of which he once asked me if I like sex and whether I'm any good at it – apparently that's another thing women do, are, are for), but I doubt that friendliness on the part of a man would have indicated that he's available for babysitting, cooking, or cleaning (or sex).

I have three degrees, I used to be a philosophy instructor, I've published several books, and I'm currently making a living as a consultant. Would a man with such credentials be asked to be someone's babysitter and do their cooking and cleaning?

Ah, but this guy doesn't know I'm all that. And that's also telling. If I were man who has lived in this neighborhood (small, rural) for twenty-five years, everyone would likely know all of that about me. But I don't go around announcing these things, and no one's ever asked. Because they just assume I'm – well, none of that. After all, I'm just a middle-aged woman.

•

Seems, as a woman, I'm expected to be a size zero. (Waiting for size negative-something.)

•

When I arranged to have an electrician come and do some work at my house, he called the next week, on the day we'd arranged for the work to be done, saying he couldn't help me out, he was busy that day. Yeah, you're busy doing work at my house, I wanted to say. Then it hit me. "Help you out." Like he was doing me a favour. WTF. I'd hired him! I would be paying him! (Why is it so many men just can't seem to work for a woman?)

•

When I told someone my name was "Jane," he immediately called me "Janey."

•

I was out walking and as I passed a neighbour tending his bird feeder, the guy called out to me "I'm feeding some seed to the little birdies!"

The little birdies? What am I, twelve?

No, I'm female. (I have a hard time believing that he would've said the same thing to a middle-aged man.) And (many) men talk to women differently than they do to men. They talk to us like we're children. Idiot children.

•

I was called rude because I didn't wave back. At a stranger.

•

When a neighbour somehow obtained the property of another recently-deceased neighbour then put it up for sale, I was eager to purchase the peninsula slice that was my view. He refused

to sell it to me. Despite my offer of not just the assessed value, not just twice the assessed value, but THREE TIMES the assessed value. (Did he think I wasn't serious? Did he think I didn't have the money? Did he think that women shouldn't own property? Did he think that in selling it to me, he was somehow losing and I, a woman, was winning?) (I suspect that if I'd arranged for a MAN to purchase it, on my behalf, there would have been no problem.)

•

When I approached the forementioned neighbour to ask him not to cut down any more trees on the peninsula, arguing that the next owner may actually *like* trees, and, of course, heartbroken to see my gorgeous view disappear, tree by tree, he scoffed at me. And kept chainsawing away. I then called the Township and the Ministry of Natural Resources to ask whether there were any laws about cutting down trees so close to the shoreline on one's private property (there are such laws in some enlightened places, because of the habitat damage done when altering the shoreline). They said they'd look into it. (An odd reply, I thought.) That afternoon, I approached the neighbour with what I thought was a win-win idea: in return for his not cutting down any more trees, I'd pay the taxes on the property until he sold it. He called me a cunt, told me to leave his property before he became a murderer, forcibly pushed me back into my car while flicking a rag in my face, then reached in and punched my dog. Two phone calls. I'd made two phone calls.

•

When a neighbour (the guy who ended up buying the forementioned property) put in a heat pump system that required digging six trenches, he did so with a huge, old, noisy excavator. It took him about one week per trench. Because the noise was so bad (lots of metal scraping on rock, which got amplified by the acoustics in the cove then skidded across the lake and slammed into my cabin), I asked if he could at least tell me when he was going to be doing the work so I could arrange to be somewhere else. He said he didn't know. Apparently, he couldn't even say on the day of, whether he'd be doing it later in the day. Let alone for how long he'd be doing it. Could be eight in the morning. For half an hour. Could be two in the afternoon. Could be nine at night. For two hours. He had no idea. And apparently no agency.

When he started doing some inside renovations, I asked whether he could at least close the windows on the side of his house that faced me. He smiled at me as if I was kidding. And, of course, did not close the windows.

At one point, he rented a portable saw mill or some such to plane boards for the floor. What an awful noise. A deafening high-pitched whine that not even the best earplugs available PLUS industrial ear muffs could block. I asked how long that part of his renovation would take. Again, he just smiled. And ignored my question.

And since all that, he tries to chat with me whenever I pass by, all friendly-like, apparently oblivious to his past insults and the gross lack of respect he's shown toward me.

•

One day a kid (new kid in the 'hood) started driving an ATV up and down the lane I live on. Up and down, up and down, up and down. Vroom vroom, revving the engine, big little man. I stopped him and pointed out that there was a stretch of road nearby that had no one living on it, and could he please play with his ATV there instead? Next thing I know, a man (presumably his father) VROOM VROOMED up to me (I'd decided to go for a walk on the recommended stretch of road, to escape the kid), got off his ATV, stomped over to me, stood (way too) close, started the finger-jabbing thing, told me I was a bitch, and informed me that the boy had every right to drive his ATV up and down the lane.

About a week later, when I was walking on the road (yeah, same stretch, guess why), he swerved his pick-up toward me. I'd seen him coming (well, I'd seen a truck coming; I didn't know it was him), so I'd already moved to the edge of the road. But he came so close I felt the swoosh of air as he passed by. I guess I was supposed to get right off the road, into the ditch. (And I might have, had I seen his trajectory, but I was turned away so I didn't get gravel in my face.) (The nerve of me! Suggesting that his little man-in-progress shouldn't go VROOM VROOM all day and annoy all the neighbours!)

•

A guy on an ATV boomed at me (managing, nevertheless, the insufferably patient inflections of mansplaining), "Ya gotta get outta my way, Jane!" when I was apparently not crossing the dirt road ahead of him quickly enough. (I was tempted to yell at him that, despite being female, I was fully aware of the consequences of collision; that, furthermore, pedestrians had the right of way; and that, in any case, he ought to learn how to use the steering wheel and the brakes – but, being female, I was also fully aware of the size of male asshole entitlement.)

•

When I confronted someone about a smokepit they'd had going for eight solid hours (I'm downwind; the smoke's a headache trigger), the guy screamed at me, all the while rushing at me as if trying to scare away a wild animal (he was on his dock; I was in my kayak a relatively safe distance away), that I was a bitch, a cunt, and crazy, that I should mind my own fucking business, and last, but not least, that I should bash my head with some rocks then jump in the lake and drown. Die.