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## Age before beauty

Thirty-five is a very attractive age. London society is full of women of the very highest birth who have, of their own free choice, remained thirty-five for years. Lady Dumbleton is an instance in point. To my own knowledge she has been thirty-five ever since she arrived at the age of forty, which was many years ago now.

*THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST*



The old believe everything: the middle-aged suspect everything: the young know everything.

‘PHRASES AND PHILOSOPHIES FOR THE USE OF THE YOUNG’



I delight in men over seventy. They always offer one the devotion of a lifetime.

*A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE*



Nothing ages like happiness.

*AN IDEAL HUSBAND*



Beauty is the wonder of wonders. It is only  
the shallow people who do not  
judge by appearances.

*THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY*

. . . Lady Ruxton, an overdressed woman of forty-seven,  
with a hooked nose, who was always trying to get  
herself compromised, but was so peculiarly plain that  
to her great disappointment no one would ever  
believe anything against her.

*THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY*



Never trust a woman who wears mauve, whatever her age  
may be, or a woman over thirty-five who is fond of pink  
ribbons. It always means that they have a history.

*THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY*

Age before beauty

She has exquisite feet and hands, is always *bien chaussée et bien gantée*, and can talk brilliantly upon any subject, provided that she knows nothing about it.

‘THE AMERICAN INVASION’



One can always tell from a woman’s bonnet whether she has got a memory or not.

*A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE*



To get back my youth I would do anything in the world, except take exercise, get up early, or be respectable.

*THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY*



To Lord Arthur it came early in life – before his nature had been spoiled by the calculating cynicism of middle-age . . .

‘LORD ARTHUR SAVILE’S CRIME’

The Wicked Wit of Oscar Wilde

No life is spoiled but one whose growth is arrested.

*THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY*



What a pity that in life we only get our lessons  
when they are of no use to us!

*LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN*



The youth of the present day are quite monstrous.  
They have absolutely no respect for dyed hair.

*LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN*

No woman should ever be quite accurate about her age. It  
looks so calculating . . .

*THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST*

Age before beauty

...A dowdy girl, with one of those characteristic British faces that, once seen, are never remembered.

*THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY*



I never saw anybody take so long to dress, and with such little result.

*THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST*



She was a curious woman, whose dresses always looked as if they had been designed in a rage and put on in a tempest.

*THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY*



A really well-made buttonhole is the only link between Art and Nature.

‘PHRASES AND PHILOSOPHIES FOR THE USE OF THE YOUNG’