WITCHES, BITCHES, AND SLUTS · SEASON 1

Episode 2: Marilyn Monroe

Source List

Content note: This episode discusses child sexual abuse, domestic violence, mental illness and involuntary psychiatric confinement, drug use, and suicide.

Films and television

- Ladies They Talk About (1933), starring Barbara Stanwyck.
- Niagara (1953).
- Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953).
- How to Marry a Millionaire (1953).
- The Jack Benny Show (September 1953), Marilyn Monroe's live TV debut, and Jayne Mansfield's later version of the same sketch.
- Some Like It Hot (1959).
- The Misfits (1961), written by Arthur Miller.

Documentary

- Marilyn Monroe: Still Life (2006), directed by Gail Levin, American Masters, PBS. Source of the Norman Mailer quote.

Books

- Donald Spoto, Marilyn Monroe: The Biography.
- Sarah Churchwell, The Many Lives of Marilyn Monroe.
- Richard Barrios, On Marilyn Monroe: An Opinionated Guide (Oxford University Press, 2023).
- The Marilyn Monroe Collection (themarilynmonroecollection.com), on her personal library of 400+ annotated books.

Photographs described in the episode

- The 1949 calendar photo used in the first issue of Playboy.
- Philippe Halsman, "jumpology" photo for Life magazine (1959).
- The subway grate photo from The Seven Year Itch (1954).
- Blue Book Agency modeling photos (mid-1940s).
- Love Happy publicity-tour photos (1949).
- Eve Arnold, photo of Monroe reading Ulysses on Long Island.

Additional reading

- Alfred C. Kinsey et al. Sexual Behavior in the Human Female. W. B. Saunders, 1953.
- Gloria Steinem. “Remembering Marilyn.” Ms., August 1988.
- Susan Strasberg. Marilyn and Me: Sisters, Rivals, Friends. Warner Books, 1992.
- Norman Mailer. Marilyn: A Biography. Grosset & Dunlap, 1973; and Of Women and Their Elegance. Simon & Schuster, 1981.
- Britney Spears. The Woman in Me. Gallery Books, 2023.
- Nurit Tal-Or and Yael Papirman. “The Fundamental Attribution Error in Attributing Fictional Figures’ Characteristics to the Actors.” Media Psychology 9, no. 2 (2007): 331–345.
- Roger Taylor, ed. Marilyn Monroe: In Her Own Words. Delilah/Putnam, 1983.
- George Barris. Marilyn: Her Life in Her Own Words. Citadel Press, 1995.
- Mike Rothmiller and Douglas Thompson. Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe. Trapeze, 2022.
- Michelle Randolph and Demi Moore. “Michelle Randolph and Demi Moore on Escaping the Beauty Trap.” Interview, December 2025. Source of the conversation about intelligence and playing a stereotyped role.

Support resources

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (United States and territories). Call 988, text 988, or use the online chat.
- RAINN. National Sexual Assault Hotline and online support.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline. Support and safety-planning resources.
- SAMHSA. Treatment and substance-use support resources.