

THE CAUSTIC WIT OF...

# ...Dorothy Parker

**Dorothy Parker** (1893-1967), a founding member of the Algonquin Roundtable, was a short-story writer, poet, theater critic, and was noted for her sharp wisecracking sense of humor. Here are a few quips and anecdotes *ala* Dorothy Parker.

- At one time Dorothy Parker had a small, dingy cubbyhole of an office in the Metropolitan Opera House building in New York. As no one ever came to see her, she became depressed and lonely. When the signwriter came to paint her name on the office door, she got him to write instead the word "GENTLEMEN."



- Attending the dress rehearsal of her play *Close Harmony*, Dorothy Parker was discouraged by the performance. The leading lady was amply endowed. At one point, the producer sitting with Dorothy whispered, "*Don't you think she ought to wear a brassiere in this scene?*" "God no," said Dorothy. "*You've got to have something in the show that moves.*"
- In the hospital Dorothy Parker was visited by her secretary, to whom she wished to dictate some letters. Pressing the button marked NURSE, Dorothy observed, "*That should assure us of a least forty-five minutes of undisturbed privacy.*"
- "*All I need is room enough to lay a hat and a few friends.*"
- "*I've never been a millionaire but I know I'd just be darling at it.*"
- "*I require only three things of a man. He must be handsome, ruthless, and stupid.*"
  - *I'd like to have a martini.*  
*Two at the very most.*  
*After three I'm under the table.*  
*After four I'm under my host.*