

## Myths We Tell Ourselves (and Others) About Our Relationship to Money

Money – it's one of the most important and fraught relationships in our lives. It shadows everything we do and threads through all our ties with parents, mates, lovers, children and employers. But because women don't like to look at this most material side of ourselves, we often leave our myths about money unexamined. In doing so, we let our ambivalences, emotions, fears, hungers and contradictions call the shots. Since the majority of women categorically do not save enough (or make enough) money to pay off their debts or retire securely, we can't afford this deliberate denial or we will eventually pay for it with our freedom, our happiness and our solvency.

Here are a few of the most popular and unexamined myths we tell ourselves and others about our relationship to money:

### **1. Myths about Love and Money**

- a. Money can't buy me love (how money influences our dating and mating)
- b. Gifts don't matter
- c. It doesn't matter if he makes less than I do, I'll still respect him
- d. It's just as easy to marry a rich man as a poor one

### **2. Myths about Spending**

- a. I bought it wholesale (how we routinely lie about even the cost of a lipstick so as not to appear like a spendthrift)
- b. I don't buy for myself, I do things for my family / my friends / others
- c. I promise I will save more for retirement

### **3. Myths about compensation**

- a. If I do a good job, I will be recognized for it and fairly compensated (a variation on that is "I am being paid what my male counterpart is being paid")
- b. If I ask for too much money I won't get the job / will lose the job / appear money grubbing

### **4. Myths about our feelings and behaviors**

- a. It's not polite to talk about money
- b. Other things are more important in life than money
- c. I trust my financial manager / stockbroker (when in reality, we just don't want to face our insecurities about managing money)