

EVERYTHING
by Aaron Haspel

(This is a sample. The complete book contains more than 500 aphorisms.)

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SCHOOLING

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Education is free: credentials are expensive.

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Never before have so many spent so much time in school to so little purpose.

READING

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One reads so as not to believe everything one reads.

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In hell you are forced to reread continuously all the books you loved before you were twenty.

WRITING

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The ideal work environment for a writer is jail.

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It's easy to be prolific — just keep repeating yourself.

THINKING

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The facts never speak for themselves.

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Get-rich-quick schemes do less harm than get-wise-quick ones.

ERRING

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A grudging willingness to admit error does not suffice; you have to cultivate a taste for it.

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Where some has failed, more rarely succeeds.

COMPUTING

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Everything is analogous to software.

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Computers will never be intelligent because humans define intelligence as whatever they do better than computers.

LYING

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The more you regard your life as a story the more you edit it.

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Your terrible secret is that you have no terrible secret.

WEDDING

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Many marry for love, all divorce for character.

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If the object of desire is rich, we call it gold-digging; if handsome, lust; if clever, fascination; and if he has no discernible appeal, we call it love.

WORKING

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Jobs are like jail, except with time added for good behavior.

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An actor can be ugly and still have no talent.

GETTING

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Money does not solve problems, it dissolves them.

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No one is unprincipled until he is successful.

RULING

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The incorruptible politician merely prefers power to money.

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The people never means quite all of them.

SELF-LOVING

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We are what we fear to appear to be.

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To regard oneself as the exception is the rule.

BEING

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All appears as it would if it were what it is.

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You never violate your principles: you only discover that they are not what you thought they were.

SEEMING

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We are constrained not by the tiny number of possibilities that we reject, but by the vast number that never occur to us.

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Belief in karma is the coward's revenge.

REMEMBERING

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We remember what we believe, and believe what we remember.

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All people at all times have annals; but only some at a few times have history.

NOTHING

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One is asked to be reasonable and expected to be moderate.

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It's easy to get away with murder, except the one you want to commit.