

The Schmooze Stories with a Yiddish Twist

by
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Syosset, New York

The Golden Girls Are Hot, Again

The hottest thing at New York Comic Con this “yor” (year) was Rose, Dorothy, Blanche and Sophia from the “Golden Girls” sitcom. This “komedie” (comedy) aired from 1985 to 1992.

Action figures of the “Golden Girls” were made by toy maker, Funko, and within hours the toys disappeared from the shelves. Their success (“hatslokhe”) wasn’t just limited to New York. Thousands of units were distributed to Target Corp. and sold out in less than 24 hours.

Shown below is a Yiddish guide to some very funny (“komish”) quotes taken from their many episodes. Enjoy!

“kokhn” (to cook)

Rose: Cooking, Dorothy?

Dorothy: No, Rose, I’m developing pictures for the Magellan Space Program.

“vunderlekh” (wonderful)

Rose: Mmmmmm, Sophia! The kitchen smells wonderful. Is it Chef Boyardee?

Rose, Sophia [Sophia holds up a knife—a “meser”]
Stick it in my heart, Rose; it’ll hurt less!

“erd-tsiternish” (earthquake)

“oyfraysn” (to explode)

[Rose and Dorothy confront Blanche about sleeping with Gil Kessler. Rose says to Blanche regarding the newspaper article]

Rose: Then why does it say the explosion was so great it shattered windows in a building 10 blocks away?

Dorothy: [holding her head—"kop"]

Rose, that was an article about an earthquake in GUATAMALA.

"ligner" (liar)

Dorothy: Ma, I have a feeling you're lying.

Rose: Dorothy, be positive.

Dorothy: Okay. I'm positive you're lying.

"yo" (yes); "di velt" (the world)

Dorothy: Well, if someone asked me to sail around the world with him, I'd say yes."

Sophia: Sail around the world? Please, you can't even get someone to ask you for a date. Sail around the world. Yeah, like there's a long line of men standing on the....

Dorothy: Alright, Ma!

"vaser" (water)

Blanche: Yeah.

Sophia: You can still walk, can't you?

Blanche: That's true.

Sophia: Great, go get me a glass of water.

"umzin" (nonsense)

Dorothy: Oh come on, Ma, that's superstitious nonsense. You know, step on a crack, break your mother's back, it doesn't work.—I know.

"shadkhn" (matchmaker)

Dorothy: I'm still furious with Ma for hooking me up with that matchmaker.

"alta kockers" (lecherous old men)

Dorothy: [the girls see all of the old men working on their garage] "I think that this was the supporting cast of Cocoon.

"khasene ghat" (married); "guf" (body); akhtsik" (80)

Dorothy: When a 22-year-old girl marries a man whose 80, chances are she is not after his body.

“alt” (old)

Sophia: Look, you didn’t ask for my opinion, but I’m old. So, I’m giving it anyway.

“ferd” (horse); “gezunt” (healthy)

Dorothy: Ma, the doctor says you’re healthy as a horse. Well, actually, the doctor in our pre-paid health plan says you’re healthy as a camel. I assume in his country, it’s the same as a horse.

Sophia [replies]

You know, Dorothy, for an extra five dollars we can get a doctor who sees patients one at a time.

“bir” (beer); “yung” (young)

[on one of the flashback episodes when Dorothy is young]

Sophia: Where are you going?

Salvadore Petrillo: To get some air.

Sophia: We got air in the house.

Salvadore I like beer with my air.

“hern” (to hear); “kanarik” (canary)

Sophia: When I turn my hearing aid up to ten, I can hear a canary breakwind in Lauderdale.

“gazolin stantsye” (gasoline station)

Rose: I stopped at the gas station and they were nice enough to give me a ride home. [to Blanche”]

“Oh, by the way, Chuck says yo.”

Blanche” Chuck from Arco or Chuck from Shell?

Rose: Shell.

Blanche: Big Chuck from Shell or Little Chuck from Shell?

Dorothy: Blanche, I think you’re spending too much time at the full service island.

“untervesh” (underwear); “unter-hoyzen” (a pair of shorts)

Dorothy: Blanche, you dated Tony Bennett?

Blanche: Honey, I did more than date him! He may have

left his heart in San Francisco, but he left his shorts on my radiator.

“eyferzikhtik” (jealous)

Dorothy: You’re just jealous because I have a date on Saturday night and you don’t.

Blanche: Saturday night? Kid stuff. Get lucky on a Tuesday morning, then call me.

“monashke” (nun)

[Dorothy cannot find work during a ten-weeks leave from her job as a teacher]

Sophia: This wouldn’t have happened if you had taken the job I wanted you to.

Dorothy: Ma, you wanted me to be a nun.

Sophia: Right. It’s steady work, they supply the uniform and you’re married to God—at least he is home every night.

“oysgeputst” (dressed up)

Blanche: Dorothy, do you think I’m dressed okay for the dog races?

Sophia: That depends—Are you competing?

“roman” (novel)

Rose: Once I read your diary.

Blanche: You did what?

Rose: Well, it was an accident. You left it open on the kitchen table. I was twenty pages in before I realized it wasn’t a Sidney Sheldon novel.

“veytik” (pain)

Sophia: Ow!

Dorothy: What is it, Ma?

Sophia: Pain.

Dorothy: What kind of pain?

Sophia: The kind that hurts!

“lonke” (lawn); “fornt” (front)

Rose: There’s a strange man on our front lawn.

Blanche: Get the net!

“ibermakhn” (to transform)

Blanche: [to Marla and Jackie]

Well, just let me freshen my make-up. Girls, why do’ you come with me and I’ll show you how I transform myself into a fresh faced innocent young thing.

Rose: Could you skip the innocent part, Blanche, the show starts in two hours.

“kleyd” (dress)

Dorothy: Ma, I’m taking the dress back to the mall.

Sophia: So?

Dorothy: So, I’m sorry for what I said earlier, and I’d really like it if you came along and helped me pick out another one. What do you say?

Sophia: What do I say? I’m your mother, Dorothy. I was there for you when you needed a communion dress. I was there when you needed a prom dress, and frankly, I’m sick of it. Buy your own damn dress.

“bet” (bed)

Blanche: That doesn’t say ‘Bed’! Those are my initials: Blanche Elizabeth Devereaux.

“zamd” (sand)

Blanche: One thing I know is I haven’t lost my hour glass figure.

Dorothy: But it looks like someone poured about ninety minutes extra sand into it.

“farkoyf-n” (to sell)

Sophia: I’m selling my estate.

Dorothy: What estate? Your bus pass and loofah sponge?

“hekherung” (promotion/advance)

Rose: Do you know that promotion I was up for at the counseling center? Well, I found out I can’t have it unless I become bilingual.

Blanche: Oh, honey, don’t do that. No job is worth having to date women.

“paruk” (wig); “yinger” (younger)

Stan: Hey, Sophia, you’re looking younger and more beautiful than ever.

Sophia: And may I say that’s a beautiful toupee you’re wearing? There, now we’re both lying.

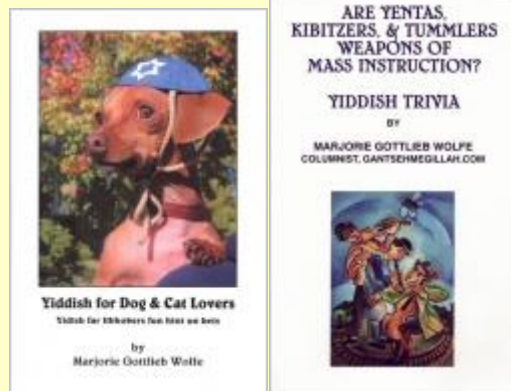
MARJORIE WOLFE’S favorite (“balibt”) quote from the “Golden Girls”:

Sophia: Please, I’m in my twilight years.

Dorothy: You’re in the Twilight ZONE!

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Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:



"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and "Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction? Yiddish Trivia." To order a copy, go to her website: MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com

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