

## Martyr Mother vs. Fortright Feminist

女 nǚ female/woman



Here are journal entries of a mother and daughter side by side. It is interesting to see how the combination of components can prompt different thoughts in people of different generations. Use whichever story sticks with you.

Mother's Diary	Daughter's Diary
要 yào want [v.] 西 + 女 Wild West + woman	
Dear Diary, I am wanted in the West to help tame the men and raise the children.	<i>Today's Thought</i> Western women led the way in the feminist movement, wanting it all: family, career, personal fulfillment, etc.
始 shǐ commence 女 + 台 woman + stage	
Dear Diary, I saw in the newspaper today the women on stage commencing a march to promote women's rights.	<i>Today's Thought</i> It will take more women on stage speaking their mind to commence the change we want.
妨 fāng hinder 女 + 方 fāng woman + compass	
Dear Diary, I was taught that thoughts of a woman can hinder a man's sense of direction. I'm going to try to steer him my way.	<i>Today's Thought</i> Some women like me are hindered in their compass skills. Thank goodness for GPS.

媒 méi matchmaker 女 + 某 mǒu woman + picnic basket	
Dear Diary, I've found him! My sister claims she was our matchmaker, sending us on the blind date with a picnic basket.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I saw an online dating service that gives you a free picnic basket when you sign up and successfully go on your first date.
媚 mèi flatter 女 + 眉 méi woman + eyebrows	
Dear Diary, He says the first time we met, I kept making eyebrows at him. I say, "Don't flatter yourself."	<i>Today's Thought</i> She noticed my eyebrows? Wow, I'm flattered.
娶 qǔ take a wife 取 qǔ + 女 take + woman	
Dear Diary, What's wrong with the phrase "to take a wife," as long as he takes you away somewhere nice?	<i>Today's Thought</i> A lot of the words associated with marriage are now being called into question as societal norms change.
妻 qī wife 十 + 耜 + 女 needle + rake + woman	
Dear Diary, I was taught by my mother that the qualifications for a good housewife include knowing how to sew and garden. I qualify.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I joke with my husband that I was a "ten-rake wife" because I brought so many useful tools and skills into the marriage.
婚 hūn marriage 女 + 昏 hūn woman + dusk	
Dear Diary, Today in marriage, I joined another clan at dusk.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I planned the most beautiful marriage ceremony, taking place at dusk.

姻 yīn in-law 女 + 因 yīn woman + cause	
Dear Diary, Because of marriage, I am now part of in-law relationships!	<i>Today's Thought</i> Women are the cause of marriage. They want the stability of one man to help care for them and their children during child-rearing.
姓 xìng surname 女 + 生 shēng woman + life/seed	
Dear Diary, I learned Chinese women keep their own surnames, but their seed take their father's surname. Not me.	<i>Today's Thought</i> Chinese women keep their own surnames, but their seed take their father's surname. We've decided to create a new surname for our family from a blend of our original names.
妇 fù married woman 女 + 冫 woman + broom	
Dear Diary, As a married woman, I think of my broom as my scepter (or the way to escape the house at night).	<i>Today's Thought</i> Everyone was so nervous to give anything practical (like a broom) to me as a married woman in fear that I would take it as sexist, but to be fair, we also both came into the marriage with our own brooms.
好 hǎo good 女 + 子 woman + child	
Dear Diary, Today I became a mother. Now my life is good.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I am now a mother. This is good—a new growth opportunity for me.
如 rú be like 女 nǚ + 口 woman + mouth	

<p>Dear Diary, My husband was reading about an ancient ritual where people walk out of a cave to symbolically represent rebirth, like coming out of a woman's birth canal.</p>	<p><i>Today's Thought</i> I need a group of women where we can talk about what it would be like if...</p>
<p>娃 wá newborn 女 + 圭 woman + bricks</p>	
<p>Dear Diary, Carrying a newborn can feel like carrying around bricks.</p>	<p><i>Today's Thought</i> Carrying a newborn can feel like carrying around bricks.</p>
<p>婴 yīng baby 贝 + 贝 + 女 2 shells + woman</p>	
<p>Dear Diary, I can't believe women have twins. Two 宝贝 (bǎobèi babies) would be more than this woman could handle.</p>	<p><i>Today's Thought</i> So many women I know are having babies with IVF. It's expensive.</p>
<p>旨 zhǐ purpose 匕 + 日 spoon/person sitting + day</p>	
<p>Dear Diary, Feeding the baby gives purpose to my days. At least someone is growing.</p>	<p><i>Today's Thought</i> I find purpose every day in my desk job.</p>
<p>姆 mǔ nanny 女 + 母 mǔ woman + mother</p>	
<p>Dear Diary, Could I convince my husband to let me hire a nanny to help this mother?</p>	<p><i>Today's Thought</i> Hiring a nanny is so difficult. I don't want a woman who is a mother of young children herself, or I am taking her away from them. But, a woman who has never been a mother often doesn't come with the experience I am hoping for.</p>

安 ān peaceful 宀 + 女 house + woman	
Dear Diary, Today I felt that a home is peaceful when a woman is present.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I am at peace when I am the only one at home.
实 shí reality 宀 + 头 house + head/bust	
Dear Diary, The reality is that he may be head of the household, but I am head of the house. Here's some of what I do every day:	<i>Today's Thought</i> I want realistic busts of my foremothers on the mantle.
担 dān assume 扌 + 旦dàn hand + daybreak	
Every morning I stretch my hands up at daybreak and assume my responsibilities.	<i>Today's Thought</i> Every weekday morning I use my hand to turn off the alarm and assume my responsibilities.
奶 nǎi milk [n.] 女 + 乃nǎi woman + fist	
I milk the cows, squeezing with my fist.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I want my partner to have a chance to feed the baby, so I am going to express milk with my fist into a bottle.
扫 sǎo sweep 扌 + 彡 hand + broom	
I use my hand to sweep with a broom.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I used my hand to sweep when I couldn't find a broom.
汗 hàn sweat [n.] 氵 + 干gān water + dry/clothesline	

I sweat as I hang the clothes out to dry.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I am going to dry the wet sweat from my workout clothes on the clothesline before I wash them.
皆 jiē all 比 + 白 compare + white	
I go outside with the other housewives and compare my whites washed with the detergent All.	<i>Today's Thought</i> My mother swears by the detergent All, but when I compare my whites with hers, I see no difference.
熨 yùn iron [v.] 尉 + 火 martyr + fire	
I'm a martyr who fires the iron every day to keep Dad looking good.	<i>Today's Thought</i> So many options for a career woman to avoid being the martyr at home ironing: wrinkle-free fabrics, dry cleaners, housekeepers.
易 yì easy 日 + 勿 sun/day + knot	
I sew by the window, where it is easier to tie knots in the good natural light.	<i>Today's Thought</i> It is easy to waste my day getting tied in knots over things out of my control.
奴 nú slave [n.] 女 + 又 woman + right hand	
I use my right hand to slave away for my family.	<i>Today's Thought</i> Can you imagine being a woman chained by her right hand, not even able to sit up, crossing the Atlantic in a ship to the "land of the free"?
宴 yàn banquet 宀 + 日 + 女 house + day/sun + woman	
Dear Diary, For the banquet tonight, it took me all day to prepare the house.	<i>Today's Thought</i> For the banquet, I want to make sure we get plenty of sunlight in the house for the lifestyle photo shoot.

姿 zī looks [n.] 次cì + 女 next + woman	
Dear Diary, My mother always said men will move on to the next woman if you don't keep up your looks. So, enough excuses. I want to look good.	<i>Today's Thought</i> We're moving on to the next era of female looks, where there is a celebration of many different looks.
妆 zhuāng put on makeup 冫 qiáng + 女 turtle + woman	
I have a small turtle shell to hold my makeup.	<i>Today's Thought</i> My mother takes forever to put on her makeup; she's as slow as a turtle.
妥 tuǒ appropriate 扌 + 女 claw + woman	
To achieve the perfect look, it would be totally appropriate to spend all afternoon in a salon with my hair attached to what appears to be a large claw coming down on my head.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I've discovered a claw clip is versatile enough for appropriate hairstyles for various occasions.
娇 jiāo attractive 女 + 乔qiáo woman + pretend	
Sometimes men find women more attractive when they pretend to not be as smart as they are. I can try this.	<i>Today's Thought</i> You know what? There is no need for a woman to pretend; she's already attractive as she is.
妙 miào wonderful 女 + 少shǎo woman + few	
There are few truly wonderful, accomplished women.	<i>Today's Thought</i> Women are wonderful. Few would dispute that.
接 jiē welcome [v.] 扌 + 立 + 女 hand + stand up + woman	

I was taught that when a woman comes in the room, to welcome her, men should reach out their hand and stand up.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I love standing at the school gate to welcome my kid with a hug.
委 wěi committee 禾 + 女 grain + woman	
Dear Diary, I 'm getting bored, so I joined a committee promoting the long-term storage of whole grains for a future time of need.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I now belong to a neighborhood committee for a co-op to bulk buy whole grains.
威 wēi might [n.] 一 + 女 + 戊 one + woman + cannon	
Dear Diary, I shouldn't watch the news. The might of a cannon blew one woman away.	<i>Today's Thought</i> Why are women the leaders in war protests? I wish it took just one woman to show her might, standing up to the cannon.
婉 wǎn tactful 女 + 宛 wǎn woman + Cabela's	
Dear Diary, How do I tactfully remind my husband to not spend all day at Cabela's?	<i>Today's Thought</i> I tactfully avoided the stop at Cabela's.
耍 shuǎ mess around 而 + 女 beard + woman	
Dear Diary, I don't mess around with beards. I want a man with a clean-shaven face.	<i>Today's Thought</i> Santa baby, hurry down the chimney tonight.
妒 dù jealous of 女 + 户 hù woman + door	
Dear Diary, I'm so jealous of my neighbor's front door. It's the house's 1920's original.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I'm so jealous of her front door. It's the house's 1960's original.



奸 jiān adultery 女 + 干 gān woman + clothesline	
Dear Diary, No need to be jealous, She ended up committing adultery after flirting with the neighbor over the fence every time she was out hanging up her laundry.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I learned 干 can be a vulgar word for sex.
嫌 xián dislike 女 + 兼 jiān woman + double	
Dear Diary, Of course I dislike a woman who leads a double life, cheating on her husband.	<i>Today's Thought</i> I dislike women being treated with a double standard compared to men!
妖 yāo bewitching 女 + 夭 yāo woman + die young	
Dear Diary, Judy Garland died. She was bewitched by a life in the spotlight and died young.	<i>Today's Thought</i> If you are bewitched by the myth that a woman can do it all and all at once, you will die young.
妄 wàng absurd [adj.] 亡 wáng + 女 deceased + woman	
Dear Diary, My fear is looking absurd in my coffin.	<i>Today's Thought</i> A lot of ideas about women are absurd and should "decease".