

## The Gift of the Magi Quotations

Writer: O. Henry | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

*"One dollar and eighty-seven cents."* – The narrator  
**Explanation:** This line shows Della's poverty. It clearly presents her financial problem at the start of the story.

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*"Shining like a cascade of brown waters."* – The narrator

**Explanation:** This line describes Della's long brown hair. It shows her most precious possession.

*"Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shell, with jewelled rims."* – The narrator

**Explanation:** These combs are Della's gift for Jim. They symbolize love and personal sacrifice.

*"I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs."* – Jim

**Explanation:** Jim reveals his sacrifice. He sold his watch to buy a gift for Della.

*"Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi."* – The narrator

**Explanation:** The narrator praises Jim and Della. He calls their selfless love true wisdom.

*"Please God, make him think I am still pretty."* – Della

**Explanation:** Della prays after cutting her hair. She fears Jim may not like her changed appearance.

*"You have cut off your hair?"* – Jim

**Explanation:** Jim is shocked when he sees Della. His reaction shows surprise and deep emotion.

***"My hair grows so fast, Jim."*** - Della

**Explanation:** Della tries to comfort Jim. She wants him to accept her sacrifice calmly.

***"Life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating."*** - The narrator

**Explanation:** This line reflects real life. It shows that sorrow is more common than happiness.

LxNotes