

Arthur Miller

Quotes

*Men, Writing, People, Thinking, Dream, Art, Play, Crucible, Country, Life, World,
Children, Two, Order, Want, Way, Father, Theatre, Ifs, Home*

I think the job of the artist is to remind people of what they have chosen to forget.

~Arthur Miller

Maybe all one can do is hope to end up with the right regrets.

~Arthur Miller

We are what we always were in Salem, but now the little crazy children are jangling the keys of the kingdom, and common vengeance writes the law!

~Arthur Miller

I speak my own sins; I cannot judge another. I have no tongue for it.

~Arthur Miller

Well, all the plays that I was trying to write were plays that would grab an audience by the throat and not release them, rather than presenting an emotion which you could observe and walk away from.

~Arthur Miller

The concentration camp is the final expression of human separateness and its ultimate consequence. It is organized abandonment.

~Arthur Miller

An era can be said to end when its basic illusions are exhausted.

~Arthur Miller

A good newspaper, I suppose, is a nation talking to itself.

~Arthur Miller

The structure of a play is always the story of how the birds came home to roost.

~Arthur Miller

No one wants the truth if it is inconvenient.

~Arthur Miller

Don't be seduced into thinking that that which does not make a profit is without value.

~Arthur Miller

A character is defined by the kinds of challenges he cannot walk away from. And by those he has walked away from that cause him remorse.

~Arthur Miller

...When the government goes into the business of destroying trust, it goes into the business of destroying itself.

~Arthur Miller

Work a lifetime to pay off a house You finally own it and there's nobody to live in it.

~Arthur Miller

Betrayal is the only truth that sticks.

~Arthur Miller

I have made more friends for American culture than the State Department. Certainly I have made fewer enemies, but that isn't very difficult.

~Arthur Miller

The apple cannot be stuck back on the Tree of Knowledge; once we begin to see, we are doomed and challenged to seek the strength to see more, not less.

~Arthur Miller

I figure I've done what I could do, more or less, and now I'm going back to being a chemical; all we are is a lot of talking nitrogen, you know.

~Arthur Miller

The best work that anybody ever writes is the work that is on the verge of embarrassing him, always.

~Arthur Miller

And yet one can't forever stand on the shore; at some point, even if filled with indecision, skepticism, reservation and doubt, you either jump in or concede that life is forever elsewhere.

~Arthur Miller

The job is to ask questions - it always was - and to ask them as inexorably as I can. And to face the absence of precise answers with a certain humility.

~Arthur Miller

The arts can do more to sustain the peace than all the wars, the armaments, and the threats and warnings of politicians.

~Arthur Miller

Certainly the most diverse, if minor, pastime of literary life is the game of Find the Author.

~Arthur Miller

Playwriting is an oral art; it's not an art of a writer expecting to be read but a writer expecting to be heard.

~Arthur Miller

When today fails to offer the justification for hope, tomorrow becomes the only grail worth pursuing.

~Arthur Miller

Suicide kills two people.

~Arthur Miller

Until an hour before the Devil fell, God thought him beautiful in Heaven.

~Arthur Miller

The enemy is within, and within stays within, and we can't get out of within.

~Arthur Miller

The theater is so endlessly fascinating because it's so accidental. It's so much like life.

~Arthur Miller

Can anyone remember love? It's like trying to summon up the smell of roses in a cellar. You might see a rose, but never the perfume.

~Arthur Miller

What is the most innocent place in any country? Is it not the insane asylum? These people drift through life truly innocent, unable to see into themselves at all.

~Arthur Miller

The task of the real intellectual consists of analyzing illusions in order to discover their causes.

~Arthur Miller

A play is made by sensing how the forces in life simulate ignorance-you set free the concealed irony, the deadly joke.

~Arthur Miller

... vulgarity has no nation.

~Arthur Miller

Everybody likes a kidder, but nobody lends him money.

~Arthur Miller

Without alienation, there can be no politics.

~Arthur Miller

Everything we are is at every moment alive in us.

~Arthur Miller

I'm sure there are writers who are great businessmen, but I never met any.

~Arthur Miller

A political policy is equated with moral right, and opposition to it with diabolical malevolence.

~Arthur Miller

Self-realization and self-fulfilment are the sine qua non for human existence.

~Arthur Miller

When any creativity becomes useful, it is sucked into the vortex of commercialism, and when a thing becomes commercial, it becomes the enemy of man.

~Arthur Miller

Great drama is great questions or it is nothing but technique. I could not imagine a theater worth my time that did not want to change the world.

~Arthur Miller

One had the right to write because other people needed news of the inner world, and if they went too long without such news they would go mad with the chaos of their lives.

~Arthur Miller

A child's spirit is like a child, you can never catch it by running after it; you must stand still, and, for love, it will soon itself come back.

~Arthur Miller

Oh, Elizabeth, your justice would freeze beer.

~Arthur Miller

The closer a man approaches tragedy the more intense is his concentration of emotion upon the fixed point of his commitment, which is to say the closer he approaches what in life we call fanaticism.

~Arthur Miller

He wants to live on through something - and in his case, his masterpiece is his son. All of us want that, and it gets more poignant as we get more anonymous in this world.

~Arthur Miller

Just remember, kid, you can quicker get back a million dollars that was stole than a word that you gave away.

~Arthur Miller

In America, any man who is not a reactionary in his views is open to the charge of alliance with the Red hell.

~Arthur Miller

I regard the theatre as a serious business, one that makes or should make man more human, which is to say, less alone.

~Arthur Miller

If I have any justification for having lived it's simply, I'm nothing but faults, failures and so on, but I have tried to make a good pair of shoes. There's some value in that.

~Arthur Miller

The word "now" is like a bomb through the window, and it ticks.

~Arthur Miller

The two greatest plays ever written were Hamlet and Oedipus Rex, and they're both about father-son relationships.

~Arthur Miller

I think it's a mistake to ever look for hope outside of one's self.

~Arthur Miller

Never fight fair with a stranger, boy. You'll never get out of the jungle that way.

~Arthur Miller

Man must shape his tools lest they shape him.

~Arthur Miller

Sometimes...it's better for a man just to walk away. But if you can't walk away? I guess that's when it's tough.

~Arthur Miller

Now hell and heaven grapple on our backs and all our old pretense is ripped away. Aye, and God's icy wind will blow.

~Arthur Miller

A small man can be just as exhausted as a great man.

~Arthur Miller

I know that my works are a credit to this nation and I dare say they will endure longer than the McCarran Act.

~Arthur Miller

The car, the furniture, the wife, the children - everything has to be disposable. Because you see the main thing today is - shopping.

~Arthur Miller

Where choice begins, Paradise ends, innocence ends, for what is

Paradise but the absence of any need to choose this action?

~Arthur Miller

The Devil is precise; the marks of his presence are definite as stone.

~Arthur Miller

A playwright... is... the litmus paper of the arts. He's got to be, because if he isn't working on the same wave length as the audience, no one would know what in hell he was talking about.

~Arthur Miller

When the guns roar, the arts die.

~Arthur Miller

A playwright lives in an occupied country. And if you can't live that way you don't stay.

~Arthur Miller

I'm the end of the line; absurd and appalling as it may seem, serious New York theater has died in my lifetime.

~Arthur Miller

The only thing you got in this world is what you can sell. And the funny thing is that you're a salesman, and you don't know that.

~Arthur Miller

Be liked and you will never want.

~Arthur Miller

In the theater, while you recognized that you were looking at a house, it was a house in quotation marks. On screen, the quotation marks tend to be blotted out by the camera.

~Arthur Miller

He's liked, but he's not well liked.

~Arthur Miller

After all the highways, and the trains, and the appointments, and the years, you end up worth more dead than alive.

~Arthur Miller

There might be a dragon with five legs in my house, but no one has ever seen it.

~Arthur Miller

The jungle is dark but full of diamonds, Willy.

~Arthur Miller

Poor brain! How helplessly it dissolves when willing eyes meet and the nose warms to those old jungle scents.

~Arthur Miller

Life, woman, life is God's most precious gift; no principle, however glorious, may justify the taking of it.

~Arthur Miller

I've always made a point of not wasting my life, and every time I come back here I know that all I've done is to waste my life.

~Arthur Miller

I realized what a ridiculous lie my whole life has been.

~Arthur Miller

I love her too, but our neuroses just don't match.

~Arthur Miller

He's not the finest character that ever lived. But he's a human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him. So attention must be paid.

~Arthur Miller

I think now that the great thing is not so much the formulation of an answer for myself, for the theatre, or the play - but rather the most accurate possible statement of the problem.

~Arthur Miller

A suicide kills two people, that's what it's for!

~Arthur Miller

A friend of mine once said that there were only two truly national events in the history of the United States. One was the Civil War and the other one was the Depression.

~Arthur Miller

If I have to be alone I want to be by myself.

~Arthur Miller

The very impulse to write springs from an inner chaos crying for order - for meaning.

~Arthur Miller

If you analyse anything, you destroy it.

~Arthur Miller

A lot of my work goes to the center of where we belong--if there is any root to life -because nowadays the family is broken up, and people don't live in the same place for very long.

~Arthur Miller

Memory inevitably romanticizes, pressing reality to recede like pain.

~Arthur Miller

I think the tragic feeling is invoked in us when we are in the presence of

a character who is ready to lay down his life, if need be, to secure one thing -- his sense of personal dignity.

~Arthur Miller

If I see an ending, I can work backward.

~Arthur Miller

Let you look sometimes for the goodness in me, and judge me not.

~Arthur Miller

When a deposit bottle is broken, you don't get your nickel back.

~Arthur Miller

Why am I trying to become what I don't want to be when all I want is out there, waiting for me the minute I say I know who I am.

~Arthur Miller

He have his goodness now. God forbid I take it from him!

~Arthur Miller

You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away - a man is not a piece of fruit.

~Arthur Miller

The world is an oyster but you don't crack it open on a mattress

~Arthur Miller

There are many who stay away from church these days because you hardly ever mention God any more.

~Arthur Miller

The famous are balloons far up in the sky, to be envied for their quiet freedom or shot down as enemies.

~Arthur Miller

The wedding of Christianity or Judaism with nationalism is lethal.

~Arthur Miller

A little man makes a mistake and they hang him by the thumbs; the big ones become ambassadors.

~Arthur Miller

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