

# Barbara Holland

## Quotes

*Cat, Children, Years, Joy, Eye, War, People, Home, Art, Dog, Spring, Winning,  
Shoes, Names, Taverns, Lonely, Jobs, Writing, Father, Doors*

Gloom we have always with us, a rank and sturdy weed, but joy requires tending.

~Barbara Holland

We don't get enough pampering. If we were once the only child of an adoring mother, we developed a taste for it; if not, we developed a thirst for it.

~Barbara Holland

a woman may be called a wife and mother for most of her life, while a man is called a husband and father only at his funeral.

~Barbara Holland

Dogwoods are great optimists. Daffodils wait and see, crouching firmly underground just in case spring doesn't come this year, but dogwoods have faith.

~Barbara Holland

True ownership of anything requires time.

~Barbara Holland

New York was where we wanted to live when we were finally grown up, and drink martinis and stay out past bedtime.

~Barbara Holland

Cats vary so widely that all data is meaningless and the professional classifiers gnash their teeth trying to come up with even a single fact common to all.

~Barbara Holland

There is no 'cat language.' Painful as it is for us to admit, they don't need one!

~Barbara Holland

Life, after we'd had a few millennia to observe it, turned out to be dreadfully unfair, so we invented sports.

~Barbara Holland

Very few people have no opinions about cats.

~Barbara Holland

By and large, people who enjoy teaching animals to roll over will find themselves happier with a dog.

~Barbara Holland

The only people who still read poetry are poets, and they mostly read their own.

~Barbara Holland

The larger the ego, the less the need for other egos around. The more modest, humble, and self-effacing we feel, the more we suffer from solitude, feeling ourselves inadequate company.

~Barbara Holland

However long you have a cat and however plainly he lays his life open before you, there is always something hidden, some name he goes by in a place you never heard of.

~Barbara Holland

The trouble with American History is that you don't remember it, and why should you? Nobody does.

~Barbara Holland

Visiting is a pleasure; being visited is usually a mixed or ambivalent joy. ... The visitor can always go home; the visitee is already home, trapped like a rat in a drainpipe.

~Barbara Holland

Perhaps it's a good time to reconsider pleasure at its roots. Changing out of wet shoes and socks, for instance.

~Barbara Holland

Almost any dog thinks almost any human is the Great Spirit, the Primal Creator, and the Universal Force Behind the Sun and Tides. What human can resist?

~Barbara Holland

Sophistication called for a variety of talents and attitudes, but the minimum requirement was being in New York. Not all New Yorkers achieved it, but nobody elsewhere had a prayer.

~Barbara Holland

Success in war was the only success that counted; failure was a disgrace to be wiped out only by starting another war and winning it.

~Barbara Holland

In a proper pub everyone there is potentially, if not a lifelong friend, at least someone to lure into an argument about foreign policy or the Red Sox.

~Barbara Holland

A catless writer is almost inconceivable.

~Barbara Holland

In the metropolitan haunts of the highly sophisticated, the cocktail is no longer an instrument of friendship but a competitive fashion statement, or one-upmanship.

~Barbara Holland

Our Revolution was born and raised in taverns.

~Barbara Holland

Exercise, to qualify at all, must be lonely, painful, humorless, and boring.

~Barbara Holland

Smiting enemies has always been so admired that, unlike medicine or archaeology, it entitled its successful practitioners to become kings, emperors, and presidents.

~Barbara Holland

We're a shifty, sliding population. ... What we refer to as 'home' may be a place we haven't seen in years; a place where there's no one left who knows our name.

~Barbara Holland

No doubt about it, solitude is improved by being voluntary.

~Barbara Holland

moral indignation is a pleasure, often the only pleasure, in many lives. It's also one of the few pleasures people feel obliged to force on other people.

~Barbara Holland

In the taverns all was amiable and easy, but the coffeehouses were cauldrons of edgy malcontents.

~Barbara Holland

To extract the fullest flavor of our drinking house, we needed to spend serious evening time there, slowly coming to know the bartender and the regulars, their joys and sorrows.

~Barbara Holland

The United States government, in figuring our gross national product, defines 'durable goods' as anything that will last three years.

~Barbara Holland

My friends and I were all deathly afraid of our fathers, which was right and proper and even biblically ordained. Fathers were angry; it was their job.

~Barbara Holland

The nostalgic notion of the family orchards is lovely - all that wholesome fruit for our forebears to sit on the back steps biting into - but basically we were growing it to drink.

~Barbara Holland

Single life should be experimental in nature and open to accidents. Some accidents are happy ones.

~Barbara Holland

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