

# Barbara Pym Quotes

*People, Trying, Writing, Giving, Love, Hands, Imagine, Wine, Hurt, Book, Novel,  
Simple, Missing, Terrible, Lonely, Littles, Drink, May, Men, Waiting*

How absurd and delicious it is to be in love with somebody younger than yourself. Everybody should try it.

~Barbara Pym

Of course it's all right for librarians to smell of drink.

~Barbara Pym

I love Evensong. There's something sad and essentially English about it.

~Barbara Pym

The burden of keeping three people in toilet paper seemed to me rather a heavy one.

~Barbara Pym

My thoughts went round and round and it occurred to me that if I ever wrote a novel it would be of the 'stream of consciousness' type and deal with an hour in the life of a woman at the sink.

~Barbara Pym

I was so astonished that I could think of nothing to say, but wondered irrelevantly if I was to be caught with a teapot in my hand on every dramatic occasion.

~Barbara Pym

There are no sick people in North Oxford. They are either dead or alive. It's sometimes difficult to tell the difference, that's all.

~Barbara Pym

She had always been an unashamed reader of novels.

~Barbara Pym

There are various ways of mending a broken heart, but perhaps going to a learned conference is one of the more unusual.

~Barbara Pym

There are some things too dreadful to be revealed, and it is even more dreadful how, in spite of our better instincts, we long to know about them.

~Barbara Pym

Life is cruel and we do terrible things to each other.

~Barbara Pym

What a good thing there is no marriage or giving in marriage in the after-life; it will certainly help to smooth things out.

~Barbara Pym

I realised that one might love him secretly with no hope of encouragement, which can be very enjoyable for the young or inexperienced.

~Barbara Pym

Dulcie always found a public library a little upsetting, for one saw so many odd people there.

~Barbara Pym

I stretched out my hand towards the little bookshelf where I kept cookery and devotional books, the most comfortable bedside reading.

~Barbara Pym

I imagine the proverb about too many cooks spoiling the broth can be applied to writing as well as anything else. The poetical or literary broth is better cooked by one person.

~Barbara Pym

It was odd how one found oneself making trivial conversation on important occasions. Perhaps it was because one could not say what

was really in one's mind.

~Barbara Pym

Novel writing is a kind of private pleasure, even if nothing comes of it in worldly terms.

~Barbara Pym

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