

# Ben Hecht

## Quotes

*Men, People, World, Writing, Art, Heart, Hollywood, Love, Age, Book, Dubious,  
Years, Time, Valentines Day, Movie, Fall, Mind, Moving, Dream, Thinking*

Time is a circus, always packing up and moving away.

~Ben Hecht

Love is the magician that pulls him out of his own hat.

~Ben Hecht

The honors Hollywood has for the writer are as dubious as tissue-paper cuff links.

~Ben Hecht

Prejudice is a raft onto which the shipwrecked mind clammers and paddles to safety.

~Ben Hecht

Chicago is a sort of journalistic Yellowstone Park, offering haven to a last herd of fantastic bravos.

~Ben Hecht

Trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading newspapers is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock.

~Ben Hecht

A man nearly always loves for other reasons than he thinks. A lover is apt to be as full of secrets from himself as is the object of his love from him.

~Ben Hecht

Bad writing is not easier than good writing. It's just as hard to make a toilet seat as it is a castle window. Only the view is different.

~Ben Hecht

The movies are an eruption of trash that has lamed the American mind and retarded Americans from becoming cultured people.

~Ben Hecht

Television excites me because it seems to be the last stamping ground of poetry, the last place where I hear women's hair rhapsodically described, women's faces acclaimed in odelike language.

~Ben Hecht

I'll tell you a secret. We live in a mad and inspiring world.

~Ben Hecht

I'm a Hollywood writer, so I put on my sports jacket and take off my brain.

~Ben Hecht

In moderating, not satisfying desires, lies peace.

~Ben Hecht

The rule in the art world is: you cater to the masses or you kowtow to the elite; you can't have both.

~Ben Hecht

In Hollywood a starlet is the name for any woman under thirty who is not actively employed in a brothel.

~Ben Hecht

Immorality, perversion, infidelity, cannibalism, etc., are unassailable by church and civic league if you dress them up in the togas and talliths of the Good Book.

~Ben Hecht

Love is a hole in the heart.

~Ben Hecht

People's sex habits are as well known in Hollywood as their political

opinions, and much less criticized.

~Ben Hecht

A movie is never any better than the stupidest man connected with it.

~Ben Hecht

There's one thing that keeps surprising you about stormy old friends after they die - their silence.

~Ben Hecht

Despite all our toil and progress, the art of medicine still falls somewhere between trout casting and spook writing.

~Ben Hecht

I have written a raucous valentine to a poet's dream and agony.

~Ben Hecht

He was in love with life as an ant on a summer blade of grass.

~Ben Hecht

For many years Hollywood held this double lure for me, tremendous sums of money for work that required no more effort than a game of pinochle.

~Ben Hecht

Like the actor, authority has faith in its false whiskers. But its deepest faith is in the human illusion. People will hang on to illusion as eagerly as life itself.

~Ben Hecht

I see a lot of fog and a few lights. I like it when life's hidden. It gives you a chance to imagine nice things, nicer than they are.

~Ben Hecht

Socially, a journalist ranks somewhere between the madam of a whorehouse and a bartender. but spiritually he ranks with Galileo, for he knows the world is round.

~Ben Hecht

Movies are one of the bad habits that have corrupted our century. They have slipped into the American mind more misinformation in one evening than the Dark Ages could muster in a decade.

~Ben Hecht

Three years ago, the white hope of the theatre. Today, a mug. That's New York for you. Puts you on a Christmas tree, and then - the alley.

~Ben Hecht

That God has managed to survive the inanities of the religions that do Him homage is truly a miraculous proof of His existence.

~Ben Hecht

Of the things men give each other the greatest is loyalty.

~Ben Hecht

Out of the seventy movies I've written some ten of them were not entirely waste product.

~Ben Hecht

Innocent people can get into terrible jams, too. One false move and you're in over your head.

~Ben Hecht

The only practical way yet discovered by the world for curing its ills is to forget about them.

~Ben Hecht

There is nothing as dull as an intellectual ally after a certain age.

~Ben Hecht

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