

Calvin Trillin

Quotes

*People, Writing, Thinking, Book, School, Long, Home, Texas, Trying, Funny,
Father, Restaurants, World, Mean, Family, Firsts, Average, Teacher, Years,
Blue*

I never eat in a restaurant that's over a hundred feet off the ground and won't stand still.

~Calvin Trillin

Many Texas barbecue fanatics have a strong belief in the beneficial properties of accumulated grease.

~Calvin Trillin

The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for thirty years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found.

~Calvin Trillin

The shelf life of the average trade book is somewhere between milk and yogurt.

~Calvin Trillin

As far as I'm concerned, 'whom' is a word that was invented to make everyone sound like a butler.

~Calvin Trillin

Perhaps we've time to have a look at the Number Thirty-One bus queue before we turn in.

~Calvin Trillin

I'm in favor of liberalizing immigration because of the effect it would have on restaurants. I'd let just about everybody in except the English.

~Calvin Trillin

Every good idea sooner or later degenerates into hard work.

~Calvin Trillin

Did you know that five out of three people have trouble with fractions.

~Calvin Trillin

I never did very well in math - I could never seem to persuade the teacher that I hadn't meant my answers literally.

~Calvin Trillin

Math was always my bad subject. I couldn't convince my teachers that many of my answers were meant ironically.

~Calvin Trillin

Avoid restaurants with names that are improbable descriptions, such as the Purple Goose, the Blue Kangaroo or the Quilted Orangutan.

~Calvin Trillin

I like chili, but not enough to discuss it with someone from Texas.

~Calvin Trillin

When someone reaches middle age, people he knows begin to get put in charge of things, and knowing what he knows about the people who are being put in charge of things scares the hell out of him.

~Calvin Trillin

The way I read Billy Carter's testimony, he was a model citizen himself until the voters went and ruined his life by making his brother President.

~Calvin Trillin

A new regulation for the publishing industry: "The advance for a book must be larger than the check for the lunch at which it was discussed.

~Calvin Trillin

The food in such places is so tasteless because the members associate spices and garlic with just the sort of people they're trying to keep out.

~Calvin Trillin

The margin of error in astrology is plus or minus one hundred percent.

~Calvin Trillin

It has long been acknowledged that the single best restaurant in the world is Arthur Bryant's Barbecue at Eighteenth and Booklyn in Kansas city.

~Calvin Trillin

I do remember in high school I wanted to be a disc jockey.

~Calvin Trillin

The Banh Mi sandwich is really the only good argument for colonialism.

~Calvin Trillin

Following the Romanian tradition, garlic is used in excess to keep the vampires away.

~Calvin Trillin

If law school is so hard to get through... how come there are so many lawyers?

~Calvin Trillin

Even today, well-brought-up English girls are taught by their mothers to boil all veggies for at least a month and a half, just in case one of the dinner guests turns up without his teeth.

~Calvin Trillin

Marriage is not merely sharing the fettucini, but sharing the burden of finding the fettucini restaurant in the first place.

~Calvin Trillin

Marriage is part of a sort of 50s revival package that's back in vogue along with neckties and naked ambition.

~Calvin Trillin

There is a theory that sooner or later anything in America that is any fun at all will be ruined by people from California.

~Calvin Trillin

The price of purity is purists.

~Calvin Trillin

If it's inappropriate to write about, if there's nothing funny about it, then it's not funny.

~Calvin Trillin

Sometimes, if I had until the next day to turn the story in, I'd head home, finding that the knot in the narrative came loose with the rhythmic clacking of the subway train.

~Calvin Trillin

At American weddings, the quality of the food is in inverse proportion to the social position of the bride and groom.

~Calvin Trillin

Getting a tattoo would probably make me cry.

~Calvin Trillin

Why in the world are you a Republican?

~Calvin Trillin

If General Haig is so smart, why did he finish 214th (out of 310) in his graduating class at West Point? Does that mean there are 213 generals his age who are smarter than he is?

~Calvin Trillin

What interests me is what you might call vernacular writing, writing that

connects you to a place.

~Calvin Trillin

There's always a source for humor.

~Calvin Trillin

"Law professors were never like economics professors," a Harvard Law professor told me. "If you disagreed with someone, you didn't call him a fool."

~Calvin Trillin

The ceiling on taxation of capital gains reflects the national belief that speculation is a more worthwhile way to make a living than work.

~Calvin Trillin

What campaigns are for is weeding out the people who, for one way or another, weren't making it for the long haul.

~Calvin Trillin

We all know funny people who can't get it down on the page - even funny writers who can't get it down on the page.

~Calvin Trillin

Health food makes me sick.

~Calvin Trillin

I'm more disturbed when people expect me to be serious.

~Calvin Trillin

I've written three books you could think of as memoirs.

~Calvin Trillin

People, not just reporters, are more interested in politics than in government, so the actual issues wouldn't be something that interested

them.

~Calvin Trillin

Irving Wallace family - they have preservatives.

~Calvin Trillin

I don't care where I sit, as long as I get fed.

~Calvin Trillin

When you're writing, you are robbed of your delivery.

~Calvin Trillin

Taking pleasure in the dark side may be some sort of occupational hazard for reporters.

~Calvin Trillin

The average trade book has a shelf life of between milk and yogurt, except for books by any member of the Irving Wallace family - they have preservatives.

~Calvin Trillin

I actually think of being funny as an odd turn of mind, like a mild disability, some weird way of looking at the world that you can't get rid of.

~Calvin Trillin

One advantage of a monarchy is that a monarchy does not suffer the effects of having great clots of white Christians moping around simply because they aren't the king or queen.

~Calvin Trillin

Everybody is who he was in high school.

~Calvin Trillin

Do my ears deceive me, or can I actually hear the sounds of worms turning? You say a turning worm makes no sound? But how about a chorus of turning worms?

~Calvin Trillin

With humor, it's so subjective that trying to think of what the ideal reader would think would drive you crazy.

~Calvin Trillin

I don't cook. I don't know anything about food. I've never reviewed a restaurant.

~Calvin Trillin

I don't mind being interviewed on television or radio.

~Calvin Trillin

I don't think I've ever read a food piece or a food book.

~Calvin Trillin

When it comes to rapacious 19th century capitalism, my family's hands are clean.

~Calvin Trillin

If bumblebee leavings and stump paste are so good for you, why can't any of those guys (in the health stores) grow full beards?

~Calvin Trillin

It was a given in our family that my father was a grocer so that I wouldn't have to be.

~Calvin Trillin

Once, in Lisbon, I tried my best to work the phone book in a way that would assuage a longing [Alice and I] had for certain Chinese dishes . . .

. . .

~Calvin Trillin

Anybody who doesn't think that the best hamburger place in teh world is in his home town is a sissy.

~Calvin Trillin

If Lincoln freed the slaves and preserved the Union, how come 'Lincolnesque' just means tall?

~Calvin Trillin

There is no question that Rumanian-Jewish food is heavy. One meal is equal in heaviness, I would guess, to eight or nine years of steady mung-bean eating.

~Calvin Trillin

Canadians are very well behaved, they don't throw their food.

~Calvin Trillin

Being on a book tour is a lot easier than reporting.

~Calvin Trillin

Money not spent on a luxury one considered even briefly is the equivalent of windfall income and should be spent accordingly.

~Calvin Trillin

Keeping off a large weight loss is a phenomenon about as common in American medicine as an impoverished dermatologist.

~Calvin Trillin

Anybody caught selling macrame in public should be dyed a natural color and hung out to dry.

~Calvin Trillin

I've always thought that parallel parking was my main talent.

~Calvin Trillin

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