

Cesare Pavese

Quotes

*Men, Life, Love, Suffering, Suicide, Art, People, Lying, Believe, Writing, Destiny,
Reality, Mean, Night, Dream, Doe, Two, World, Giving, Time*

We do not remember days, we remember moments.

~Cesare Pavese

Life is pain and the enjoyment of love is an anesthetic.

~Cesare Pavese

The only joy in the world is to begin.

~Cesare Pavese

Remember, writing poetry is like making love: one will never know whether one's own pleasure is shared.

~Cesare Pavese

We do not free ourselves from something by avoiding it, but only by living through it.

~Cesare Pavese

Lessons are not given, they are taken.

~Cesare Pavese

The only joy in the world is to begin. It is good to be alive because living is beginning, always, every moment.

~Cesare Pavese

The art of living is the art of knowing how to believe lies. The fearful thing about it is that, not knowing what truth may be, we can still recognize lies.

~Cesare Pavese

We never remember days, only moments.

~Cesare Pavese

Every luxury must be paid for, and everything is a luxury, starting with being in this world.

~Cesare Pavese

It's pointless to cry. One is born and dies alone.

~Cesare Pavese

The closing years of life are like the end of a masquerade party, when the masks are dropped.

~Cesare Pavese

If you wish to travel far and fast, travel light. Take off all your envies, jealousies, unforgiveness, selfishness and fears.

~Cesare Pavese

To know the world, one must construct it

~Cesare Pavese

VerrÃ la morte e avrÃ i tuoi occhi. (Death will come and it will have your eyes.)

~Cesare Pavese

No one ever lacks a good reason for suicide.

~Cesare Pavese

Woman gives herself as a prize to the weak and as a prop to the strong and no man ever has what he should.

~Cesare Pavese

Love is the cheapest of religions.

~Cesare Pavese

The only way to escape the abyss is to look at it, gauge it, sound it out and descend into it.

~Cesare Pavese

Give me the ready hand rather than the ready tongue.

~Cesare Pavese

The richness of life lies in memories we have forgotten.

~Cesare Pavese

One stops being a child when one realizes that telling one's trouble does not make it any better.

~Cesare Pavese

Human imagination is immensely poorer than reality.

~Cesare Pavese

One does not kill oneself for love of a woman, but because love - any love - reveals us in our nakedness, our misery, our vulnerability, our nothingness.

~Cesare Pavese

Nowadays, suicide is just a way of disappearing. It is carried out timidly, quietly, and falls flat. It is no longer an action, only a submission.

~Cesare Pavese

Perfect behaviour is born of complete indifference.

~Cesare Pavese

Life is not a search for experience, but for ourselves. Having discovered our own fundamental level we realize that it conforms to our own destiny and we find peace.

~Cesare Pavese

All sins have their origin in a sense of inferiority otherwise called ambition.

~Cesare Pavese

Those philosophers who believe in the absolute logic of truth have never had to discuss it on close terms with a woman.

~Cesare Pavese

What is to come will emerge only after long suffering, long silence.

~Cesare Pavese

The art of living is the art of knowing how to believe lies.

~Cesare Pavese

Idleness makes hours pass slowly and years swiftly. Activity makes the hours short and the years long.

~Cesare Pavese

We obtain things when we no longer want them.

~Cesare Pavese

No woman marries for money; they are all clever enough, before marrying a millionaire, to fall in love with him first.

~Cesare Pavese

But here's the worst part: the trick to life lies in hiding from those we hold most dear how much they mean to us; if not, we'd lose them.

~Cesare Pavese

It is stupid to grieve for the loss of a girl friend: you might never have met her, so you can do without her.

~Cesare Pavese

The slowness of time, for a man who knows nothing will happen, is brutal.

~Cesare Pavese

The whole problem of life, then, is this: how to break out of one's own

Loneliness, how to communicate with others.

~Cesare Pavese

One must look for one thing only, to find many.

~Cesare Pavese

The man of action is not the headstrong fool who rushes into danger with no thought for himself, but the man who puts into practice the things he knows.

~Cesare Pavese

Waiting is still an occupation. It is having nothing to wait for that is terrible.

~Cesare Pavese

But the real, tremendous truth is this: suffering serves no purpose whatever.

~Cesare Pavese

In the mental disturbance and effort of writing, what sustains you is the certainty that on every page there is something left unsaid.

~Cesare Pavese

But all years are stupid. It's only when they're over that they become interesting.

~Cesare Pavese

The only reason why we are always thinking of our own ego is that we have to live with it more continuously than with anyone else's.

~Cesare Pavese

Things are revealed through the memories we have of them. Remembering a thing means seeing it only then for the first time.

~Cesare Pavese

Suicides are timid murderers. Masochism instead of Sadism.

~Cesare Pavese

Are you or aren't you convinced that weakness is a man's condition?
How can you raise yourself if you haven't fallen first?

~Cesare Pavese

Hate is always a clash between our spirit and someone else's body.

~Cesare Pavese

Why so much innuendo, draped like ivy to hide a cesspool, when everyone knew the cesspool was there?

~Cesare Pavese

Misfortunes cannot suffice to make a fool into an intelligent man.

~Cesare Pavese

What we desire is not to possess a woman, but to be the only one to possess her.

~Cesare Pavese

What world lies beyond that stormy sea I do not know, but every ocean has a distant shore, and I shall reach it.

~Cesare Pavese

There is mercy for everyone, except those who are bored with life.

~Cesare Pavese

If it were possible to have a life absolutely free from every feeling of sin, what a terrifying vacuum it would be.

~Cesare Pavese

Traveling is a brutality. It forces you to trust strangers and to lose sight of all that familiar comfort of home and friends

~Cesare Pavese

We like to have work to do, so as to have the right to rest.

~Cesare Pavese

A man succeeds in completing a work only when his qualities transcend that work.

~Cesare Pavese

Here's the difficulty about suicide: it is an act of ambition that can be committed only when one has passed beyond ambition.

~Cesare Pavese

Will power is only the tensile strength of one's own disposition. One cannot increase it by a single ounce.

~Cesare Pavese

Love is desire for knowledge.

~Cesare Pavese

Don't you know that what happens to you once always happens again? You always react in the same way to the same thing. It's no accident when you make a mess. Then you do it again. It's called destiny.

~Cesare Pavese

The man who cannot live with charity, sharing other men's pain, is punished by feeling his own with intolerable anguish.

~Cesare Pavese

Because, to despise money, one must have plenty of it.

~Cesare Pavese

Love has the faculty of making two lovers seem naked, not in each other's sight, but in their own.

~Cesare Pavese

I spent the whole evening sitting before a mirror to keep myself company.

~Cesare Pavese

All our "most sacred affections " are merely prosaic habit.

~Cesare Pavese

When you dream, you are an author, but you do not know how it will end.

~Cesare Pavese

It is not the actual enjoyment of pleasure that we desire. What we want is to test the futility of that pleasure, so as to be no longer obsessed by it.

~Cesare Pavese

A man is never completely alone in this world. At the worst, he has the company of a boy, a youth, and by and by a grown man - the one he used to be.

~Cesare Pavese

There is only one pleasure-that of being alive. All the rest is misery.

~Cesare Pavese

We can all do good deeds, but very few of us can think good thoughts.

~Cesare Pavese

I thought of how many places there are in the world that belong in this way to someone, who has it in his blood beyond anyone else's understanding.

~Cesare Pavese

I was happy enough; I knew that during the night the whole city might go up in flames and all its people be killed, but the ravines, houses, and footpaths would wake in the morning calm and unchanged.

~Cesare Pavese

You wait for nothing if not for the word that will burst from the deep like a fruit among branches.

~Cesare Pavese

How can you have confidence in a woman who will not risk entrusting her whole life to you, day and night?

~Cesare Pavese

From someone who doesn't want to share your destiny, you should neither accept a cigarette

~Cesare Pavese

You will hear words old and spent and useless like costumes left over from yesterday's parties.

~Cesare Pavese

Certainly, to have a woman who waits at home for you, who will sleep with you, gives a warm feeling like having something you must say; it makes you glow, keeps you company, helps you to live.

~Cesare Pavese

Death is repose, but the thought of death disturbs all repose.

~Cesare Pavese

Life without smoking is like the smoke without the roast.

~Cesare Pavese

The cadence of suffering has begun. Every evening at dusk, my heart constricts until night has come.

~Cesare Pavese

A corpse is what's left after waking too often.

~Cesare Pavese

Perfect behavior is born of complete indifference. Perhaps this is why we always love madly someone who treats us with indifference.

~Cesare Pavese

Don't mix wine and women.

~Cesare Pavese

There comes a day when, for someone who has persecuted us, we feel only indifference, a weariness at his stupidity. Then we forgive him.

~Cesare Pavese

A decision, an action, are infallible omens of what we shall do another time, not for any vague, mystic, astrological reason but because they result from an automatic reaction that will repeat itself.

~Cesare Pavese

We commit two wrongs when we fail to right a wrong.

~Cesare Pavese

Reality is a prison, where one vegetates and always will.

~Cesare Pavese

You cannot insult a man more atrociously than by refusing to believe he is suffering .

~Cesare Pavese

A dream is a creation of the intelligence, the creator being present but not knowing how it will end.

~Cesare Pavese

It had to happen to you, to concentrate your whole life on one point, and then discover that you can do anything except live at that point.

~Cesare Pavese

To avenge a wrong done to you, is to rob yourself of the comfort of crying out against the injustice of it.

~Cesare Pavese

A love thought: I love you so much that I could wish I had been born your brother, or had brought you into the world myself.

~Cesare Pavese

I am the captain of my destiny, I do not abandon the ship in hard times, But, I do have sense enough not to go down with the ship.

~Cesare Pavese

We want Realism's wealth of experience and Symbolism's depth of feeling. All art is a problem of balance between two opposites.

~Cesare Pavese

The real affliction of old age is remorse.

~Cesare Pavese

Not believing in anything is also a religion .

~Cesare Pavese

Writing is a fine thing, because it combines the two pleasures of talking to yourself and talking to a crowd.

~Cesare Pavese

When writing poetry, it is not that produces a bright idea, but the bright idea that kindles the fire of.

~Cesare Pavese

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