

# Christina Stead

## Quotes

*Art, Men, Money, Women, People, Law, Girl, Believe, Passion, Mother, Dream,  
Class, Country, Intuition, Thinking, Age, Real, Hands, Intelligent, Clouds*

No rich man is a patriot, no rich man is a friend. They have all only got one fatherland the Ritz-Carlton; and one friend the mistress they're promising to divorce their wives for.

~Christina Stead

If all the rich people in the world divided up their money among themselves, there wouldn't be enough to go around.

~Christina Stead

A self-made man is one who believes in luck and sends his son to Oxford.

~Christina Stead

The waste, the insane freaks of these money men, the cynicism and egotism of their life... I'll show that they are not brilliant, not romantic, not delightful, not intelligent.

~Christina Stead

Venus can see at night without eyes.

~Christina Stead

When people are collecting gold they aren't doing business. ... Gold is constipation: even bankruptcy is more fluid. Gold isn't wealth: positions in markets are wealth.

~Christina Stead

Creation of something out of nothing is the most primitive of human passions and the most optimistic

~Christina Stead

About myself - no. I'm unimportant, an observer, a wandering animal.

~Christina Stead

Loneliness is a terrible blindness.

~Christina Stead

Charm is a cunning self-forgetfulness.

~Christina Stead

Gentlemen are overestimated, that is my experience.

~Christina Stead

Each Australian is a Ulysses.

~Christina Stead

Money goes where money is, money yearns where money is.

~Christina Stead

Radicalism is the opium of the middle class.

~Christina Stead

It is a rule of creative ability that it does nothing of any value, while it is possessed by this afflatus of vanity.

~Christina Stead

Intuition is not infallible; it only seems to be the truth. It is a message which we may interpret wrongly.

~Christina Stead

Money has no country.

~Christina Stead

I know your breed; all your fine officials debauch the younger girls who are afraid to lose their jobs: that's as old as Washington.

~Christina Stead

A woman can't be, until a girl dies. . . . I mean the sprites that girls are, so different from us, all their fancies, their illusions, their flower world,

the dreams they live in.

~Christina Stead

I don't know what imagination is, if not an unpruned, tangled kind of memory.

~Christina Stead

A bank is a confidence trick. If you put up the right signs, the wizards of finance themselves will come in and ask you to take their money.

~Christina Stead

All new money is made through the shifting of social classes and the dispossession of old classes.

~Christina Stead

A lie is real; it aims at success. A liar is a realist.

~Christina Stead

It's easy to make money. You put up the sign Bank and someone walks in and hands you his money. The facade is everything.

~Christina Stead

The more we know, the better our intuitions.

~Christina Stead

Financiers are great mythomaniacs, their explanations and superstitions are those of primitive men; the world is a jungle to them. They perceive acutely that they are at the dawn of economic history.

~Christina Stead

Old age and youth cannot live together.

~Christina Stead

Everyone likes the obscene; that is real life.

~Christina Stead

A speculator is a man who, if he dies at the right time, has a rich widow.

~Christina Stead

A single girl must lead a double life don't you think?

~Christina Stead

A dominant race did not lie, because it had the whip.

~Christina Stead

Old age is perhaps life's decision about us.

~Christina Stead

Humorists are always pessimists. They're reactionaries: because they see that every golden cloud has a black lining.

~Christina Stead

There'll be no sense in sexual theories until women start telling their minds; and, of course, until they have some.

~Christina Stead

Strange is the influence of Marx on character.

~Christina Stead

Why is it every careerist tries to turn his mother into a Madonna--to prove his intellect is a virgin birth, papa had nothing to do with it? It's the sign of the misogynist.

~Christina Stead

Women have been brought up much like slaves, that is, to lie.

~Christina Stead

Life is nothing but rags and tags and filthy rags at that.

~Christina Stead

The Chinese are a knowing people; and I daresay that is why they once made a religious odor about old age; to prevent their sons from seeing their own future.

~Christina Stead

I hate Bernard Shaw because he says that life is compromise.

~Christina Stead

Philosophy is by the timid for the timid.

~Christina Stead

It is most oppressive to be an aunt.

~Christina Stead

I wish I had a man and not a dishrag printed over with big words like 'constitutional rights' and 'progress'!

~Christina Stead

Every work of art should give utterance, or indicate, the awful blind strength and the cruelty of the creative impulse, that is why they must all have what are called errors, both of taste and style.

~Christina Stead

If misery spelled revolt, we should have had nothing but revolt from the beginning of time. On the contrary, it is quite rare.

~Christina Stead

We are primitive men; we taboo what we desire and need. How did the denying of love come to be associated with the idea of morality.

~Christina Stead

Socialist writers are made of sterner stuff than those who only let their characters steeplechase through trouble in order to come out first in the happy ending of moral uplift.

~Christina Stead

The great white city of brotherhood, Washington.

~Christina Stead

It's fine to be a great democrat when you've a slave to rub your boots on.

~Christina Stead

The French are a tremendously verbal race: they kill you with their assurances, their repetitions, their reasons, their platitudes, their formulae, their propositions, their solutions.

~Christina Stead

And gold has no name, it licks the hand of anyone who has it: good dog!

~Christina Stead

Weak, tea-drinking, effeminate, ineffectual--masters of India, robbers of South Africa, bedevillers of all Europe.

~Christina Stead

Pukka sahib or rank outsider--gentleman or bounder--and it's accent, accent, all the way.

~Christina Stead

Men never believe a woman can do anything.

~Christina Stead

A tory youth is a youth speculating on his future.

~Christina Stead

People who don't like scandals shouldn't be in finance.

~Christina Stead

If equity and human natural reason were allowed there would be no law, there would be no lawyers.

~Christina Stead

Women are outside the law; they make nothing, they say yes or no to some collections of whereases.

~Christina Stead

I never wanted to marry anyone like my father; I always preferred those more shoddy.

~Christina Stead

All middle-class novels are about the trials of three, all upper-class novels about mass fornication, all revolutionary novels about a bad man turned good by a tractor.

~Christina Stead

It was easy to see how upsetting it would be if women began to love freely where love came to them. An abyss would open in the principal shopping street of every town.

~Christina Stead

Los Angeles is a Yukon for crime-story writers.

~Christina Stead

A woman is a hunter without a forest.

~Christina Stead

Altruism is selfishness out with a pair of field glasses and imagination.

~Christina Stead



Love is feared: it dissolves society, it's unpopular, and it's very rare.

~Christina Stead

The white man in the tropics degenerates every day.

~Christina Stead

money that is in billions and monopolies isn't money at all, because the people have none, and money is democratic, everyone has to have some or there's none at all.

~Christina Stead

A mother! What are we worth really? They all grow up whether you look after them or not.

~Christina Stead

it's immoral to work to make money. There's something unlucky in it. You got to work for the work. You got to work on a farm, for the farm - then it makes money.

~Christina Stead

Ye want to tell the plain truth all your life, woman, and speak straight; otherwise ye get to seeing double.

~Christina Stead

To me, all the juice of a book is in an unpublished manuscript, and the published book is like a dead tree - just good for cutting up and building your house with.

~Christina Stead

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