

Dorothy L. Sayers

Quotes

*Men, People, Thinking, Mind, Heart, Mean, Jobs, Believe, Jesus, World, Looks,
War, Way, Law, Book, Writing, Work, Christian, May, Church*

If you want your own way, God will let you have it. Hell is the enjoyment of one's own way forever.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Death seems to provide the minds of the Anglo-Saxon race with a greater fund of amusement than any other single subject.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

For the sole true end of education is simply this: to teach men how to learn for themselves; and whatever instruction fails to do this is effort spent in vain.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Time and trouble will tame an advanced young woman, but an advanced old woman is uncontrollable by any earthly force.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

God was executed by people painfully like us, in a society very similar to our own ... by a corrupt church, a timid politician, and a fickle proletariat led by professional agitators.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

What do we find God 'doing about' this business of sin and evil?...God did not abolish the fact of evil; He transformed it. He did not stop the Crucifixion; He rose from the dead.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

A society in which consumption has to be artificially stimulated in order to keep production going is a society founded on trash and waste, for such a society is a house built upon sand.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

It is not the business of the church to adapt Christ to men, but men to Christ.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

As I grow older and older, And totter toward the tomb, I find that I care less and less Who goes to bed with whom.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

If men will not understand the meaning of judgement, they will never come to understand the meaning of grace.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The popular mind has grown so confused that it is no longer able to receive any statement of fact except as an expression of personal feeling.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Lawyers enjoy a little mystery, you know. Why, if everybody came forward and told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth straight out, we should all retire to the workhouse.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I love you - I am at rest with you - I have come home.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Paradoxical as it may seem, to believe in youth is to look backward; to look forward we must believe in age.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I have the most ill-regulated memory. It does those things which it ought not to do and leaves undone the things it ought to have done. But it has not yet gone on strike altogether.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I imagine you come across a number of people who are disconcerted by the difference between what you do feel and what they fancy you

ought to feel. It is fatal to pay the smallest attention to them.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

How can I find the words? Poets have taken them all and left me with nothing to say or do" "Except to teach me for the first time what they meant.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

None of us feels the true love of God till we realize how wicked we are. But you can't teach people that - they have to learn by experience.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Every great man has a woman behind him ... And every great woman has some man or other in front of her, tripping her up.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

A human being must have occupation if he or she is not to become a nuisance to the world.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The trouble is. . .that everybody sneers at restrictions and demands freedom, till something annoying happens; then they demand angrily what has become of the discipline.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Those who prefer their English sloppy have only themselves to thank if the advertisement writer uses his mastery of the vocabulary and syntax to mislead their weak minds.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I always have a quotation for everything - it saves original thinking.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

And what do all the great words come to in the end, but that? I love you

- I am at rest with you - I have come home.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Man is never truly himself except when he is actively creating something.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Books... are like lobster shells, we surround ourselves with 'em, then we grow out of 'em and leave 'em behind, as evidence of our earlier stages of development.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

A continual atmosphere of hectic passion is very trying if you haven't got any of your own.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

It is fatal to let people suppose that Christianity is only a mode of feeling; it is vitally necessary to insist that it is first and foremost a rational explanation of the universe.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

To foment grievance and to set men at variance is the trade by which agitators thrive and journalists make money.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Even idiots occasionally speak the truth accidentally.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Learning and literature have a way of outlasting the civilization that made them.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Jesus Christ is the only God who has a date in history.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

To know one's own limitations is the hallmark of competence.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

But what are you going to do about the people who are cursed with both hearts and brains?

~Dorothy L. Sayers

If people will bring dynamite into a powder factory, they must expect explosions.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Here be dragons to be slain, here be rich rewards to gain; If we perish in the seeking, why, how small a thing is death!

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Some people's blameless lives are to blame for a good deal.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The only Christian work is good work, well done

~Dorothy L. Sayers

How fleeting are all human passions compared with the massive continuity of ducks.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

He was so crooked, you could have used his spine for a safety-pin.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

A woman fit to be a man's wife is too good to be his servant.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The great advantage about telling the truth is that nobody ever believes it.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

What? Sunday morning in an English family and no sausages? God bless my soul, what's the world coming to, eh?

~Dorothy L. Sayers

First I believe it to be a grave mistake to present Christianity as something charming and popular with no offense in it.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Still, it doesn't do to murder people, no matter how offensive they may be.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The only sin passion can commit is to be joyless.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I know what an Act to make things simpler means. It means that the people who drew it up don't understand it themselves and that every one of its clauses needs a law-suit to disentangle it.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

To complain that man measures God by his own experience is a waste of time; man measures everything by his own experience; he has no other yardstick.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I have never yet heard any middle-aged man or woman who worked with his or her brains express any regret for the passing of youth.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

We've got to laugh or break our hearts in this damnable world.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

A facility for quotation covers the absence of original thought.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Every time a man expects, as he says, his money to work for him, he is expecting other people to work for him.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

A person who tells a secret, swearing the recipient to secrecy in turn, is asking of the other person a discretion which he is abrogating himself.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

It is ridiculous to take on a man's job just in order to be able to say that 'a woman has done it - yah!' The only decent reason for tackling a job is that it is your job and you want to do it.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Of all devils let loose in the world there is no devil like devoted love.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

She always says, my lord, that facts are like cows. If you look them in the face hard enough they generally run away.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Heroics that don't come off are the very essence of burlesque.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

If anybody ever marries you, it will be for the pleasure of hearing you talk piffle

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Lord, teach us to take our hearts and look them in the face, however difficult it may be.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

There certainly does seem a possibility that the detective story will come to an end, simply because the public will have learnt all the tricks.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

What we make is more important than what we are, particularly if making is our profession.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I admit it is better fun to punt than be punted, and that a desire to have all the fun is nine-tenths of the law of chivalry.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Heaven deliver us, what's a poet? Something that can't go to bed without making a song about it.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Do you know how to pick a lock?" "Not in the least, I'm afraid." "I often wonder what we go to school for," said Wimsey.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I often think when a man's once past a certain age, the older he grows the tougher he gets, and women the same or more so.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

It is said that love and a cough cannot be hid.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

One must not only die daily, but every day we must be born again.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I have never regretted Paradise Lost since I discovered that it contained no eggs-and-bacon.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

She couldn't have found anything nastier to say if she had thought it out with both hands for a fortnight.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

There is only one kind of wisdom that has any social value, and that is the knowledge of one's own limitations.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

We cannot really look at the movement of the Spirit, just because It is the Power by which we do the looking.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

When cats sat staring into the fire they were thinking out problems.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The English language has a deceptive air of simplicity; so have some little frocks; but they are both not the kind of thing you can run up in half an hour with a machine.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The education that we have so far succeeded in giving to the bulk of our citizens has produced a generation of mental slatterns.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Oh, well, faint heart never won so much as a scrap of paper

~Dorothy L. Sayers

There are crimes which the Law cannot reach.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

That there is a secret itself is a secret.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

But that's men all over ... Poor dears, they can't help it. They haven't got logical minds.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

While time lasts there will always be a future, and that future will hold both good and evil, since the world is made to that mingled pattern.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

It's very inconvenient being a sculptor. It's like playing the double-bass; one's so handicapped by one's baggage.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The one thing which seems to me quite impossible is to take into consideration the kind of book one is expected to write; surely one can only write the book that is there to be written.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Variety, individuality, peculiarity, eccentricity and indeed crankiness are agreeable to the British mind; they make life more interesting.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The Devil ... is much better served by exploiting our virtues than by appealing to our lower passions; consequently, it is when the Devil looks most noble and reasonable that he is most dangerous.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I'm getting very old and my bones ache. My sins are deserting me, and if I could only have my time over again I'd take care to commit more of them.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The best remedy for a bruised heart is not, as so many people think, repose upon a manly bosom. Much more efficacious are honest work, physical activity, and the sudden acquisition of wealth.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

To make a deliberate falsification for personal gain is the last, worst depth to which either scholar or artist can descend in work or life.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

That you cannot have Christian principles without Christ is becoming increasingly clear, because their validity as principles depends on Christ's authority.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

She reflected she must be completely besotted about Peter, if his laughter could hallow an aspidistra.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

On the strength of his literary output alone... any woman of sense would decline to tackle D.H. Lawrence at 1,000 pounds a night.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

whereas, up to the present, there is only one known way of getting born, there are endless ways of getting killed.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

To make a precise scientific description of reality out of words is like trying to build a rigid structure out of pure quicksilver.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

You cannot do good work if you take your mind off the work to see how the community is taking it.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

Sex is every man's loco spot ... he'll take a disappointment, but not a humiliation.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The young were always theoretical; only the middle-aged could realize the deadliness of principles.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

We may argue eloquently that 'Honesty is the best Policy' - unfortunately, the moment honesty is adopted for the sake of policy it mysteriously ceases to be honesty.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

The Devil is a spiritual lunatic, but, like many lunatics, he is extremely plausible and cunning.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

I gather that he nearly knocked you down, damaged your property, and generally made a nuisance of himself, and that you instantly concluded he must be some relation to me.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

It's not the innocent young things that need gentle handling--it's the ones that have been frightened and hurt.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

[Did you] ever know a sincere emotion to express itself in a subordinate clause?

~Dorothy L. Sayers

there is undoubtedly something irritating about the favorites of fortune.

~Dorothy L. Sayers

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