

Edith Wharton

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Eye, Literature, Happiness, Long, Men, Art, Self, Real,
Believe, Together, Giving, Years, Light, Mind, Littles, House, Sky, Life*

There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

~Edith Wharton

The desire for symmetry, for balance, for rhythm in form as well as in sound, is one of the most inveterate of human instincts.

~Edith Wharton

To visit Morocco is still like turning the pages of some illuminated Persian manuscript all embroidered with bright shapes and subtle lines.

~Edith Wharton

One can remain alive ... if one is unafraid of change, insatiable in intellectual curiosity interested in big things and happy in small ways.

~Edith Wharton

If only we'd stop trying to be happy, we could have a pretty good time.

~Edith Wharton

The real loneliness is living among all these kind people who only ask one to pretend!

~Edith Wharton

Nothing is more perplexing to a man than the mental process of a woman who reasons her emotions.

~Edith Wharton

One of the great things about travel is you find out how many good, kind people there are.

~Edith Wharton

Set wide the window. Let me drink the day.

~Edith Wharton

Life is always either; a tight -rope or a feather-bed . â€” Give me the tightrope.

~Edith Wharton

If proportion is the good breeding of architecture, symmetry, or the answering of one part to another, may be defined as the sanity of decoration.

~Edith Wharton

Each time you happen to me all over again.

~Edith Wharton

In reality they all lived in a kind of hieroglyphic world, where the real thing was never said or done or even thought, but only represented by a set of arbitrary signs.

~Edith Wharton

Half the trouble in life is caused by pretending there isn't any.

~Edith Wharton

There is one friend in the life of each of us who seems not a separate person, however dear and beloved, but an expansion, an interpretation, of one's self, the very meaning of one's soul.

~Edith Wharton

A New York divorce is in itself a diploma of virtue.

~Edith Wharton

It was easy enough to despise the world, but decidedly difficult to find any other habitable region.

~Edith Wharton

A frivolous society can acquire dramatic significance only through what its frivolity destroys.

~Edith Wharton

Don't you ever mind," she asked suddenly, "not being rich enough to buy all the books you want?"

~Edith Wharton

In a sky of iron the points of the Dipper hung like icicles and Orion flashed his cold fires.

~Edith Wharton

True originality consists not in a new manner but in a new vision.

~Edith Wharton

Silence may be as variously shaded as speech.

~Edith Wharton

Beware of monotony; it's the mother of all the deadly sins.

~Edith Wharton

Another unsettling element in modern art is that common symptom of immaturity, the dread of doing what has been done before.

~Edith Wharton

An education is like a crumbling building that needs constant upkeep with repairs and additions.

~Edith Wharton

When a man says he doesn't understand a woman it's because he won't take the trouble.

~Edith Wharton

I don't know that I should care for a man who made life easy; I should want some one who made it interesting.

~Edith Wharton

Life is the only real counselor; wisdom unfiltered through personal experience does not become a part of the moral tissue.

~Edith Wharton

I want to put my hand out and touch you. I want to do for you and care for you. I want to be there when you're sick and when you're lonesome.

~Edith Wharton

As the pain that can be told is but half a pain, so the pity that questions has little healing in its touch.

~Edith Wharton

She had no tolerance for scenes which were not of her own making.

~Edith Wharton

They seemed to come suddenly upon happiness as if they had surprised a butterfly in the winter woods

~Edith Wharton

She was not accustomed to taste the joys of solitude except in company.

~Edith Wharton

She was so evidently the victim of the civilization which had produced her, that the links of her bracelet seemed like manacles chaining her to her fate.

~Edith Wharton

Happiness is a work of art. Handle with care.

~Edith Wharton

There's no such thing as old age, there is only sorrow.

~Edith Wharton

It was harder to drown at sunrise than in darkness.

~Edith Wharton

Women ought to be free - as free as we are,' he declared, making a discovery of which he was too irritated to measure the terrific consequences.

~Edith Wharton

Our blindest impulses become evidence of perspicacity when they fall in with the course of events.

~Edith Wharton

She wondered if, when human souls try to get too near each other, they do not inevitably become mere blurs to each other's vision.

~Edith Wharton

It is less mortifying to believe one's self unpopular than insignificant, and vanity prefers to assume that indifference is a latent form of unfriendliness.

~Edith Wharton

Habit is necessary; it is the habit of having habits, of turning a trail into a rut, that must be incessantly fought against if one is to remain alive.

~Edith Wharton

What a shame it is for a nation to be developing without a sense of beauty, and eating bananas for breakfast.

~Edith Wharton

To know when to be generous and when firmâ€”that is wisdom.

~Edith Wharton

Old age, calm, expanded, broad with the haughty breadth of the universe, old age flowing free with the delicious near-by freedom of

death.

~Edith Wharton

My little dog - a heartbeat at my feet.

~Edith Wharton

... even in houses commonly held to be 'booky' one finds, nine times out of ten, not a library but a book-dump.

~Edith Wharton

Life's just a perpetual piecing together of broken bits.

~Edith Wharton

To your generation, I must represent the literary equivalent of tufted furniture and gas chandeliers.

~Edith Wharton

After all, one knows one's weak points so well, that it's rather bewildering to have the critics overlook them and invent others.

~Edith Wharton

We live in our own souls as in an unmapped region, a few acres of which we have cleared for our habitation; while of the nature of those nearest us we know but the boundaries that march with ours.

~Edith Wharton

He knelt by the bed and bent over her, draining their last moment to its lees; and in the silence there passed between them the word which made all clear.

~Edith Wharton

There are moments when a man's imagination, so easily subdued to what it lives in, suddenly rises above its daily level and surveys the long windings of destiny.

~Edith Wharton

Ah, good conversation - there's nothing like it, is there? The air of ideas is the only air worth breathing.

~Edith Wharton

The only way not to think about money is to have a great deal of it.

~Edith Wharton

Misfortune had made Lily supple instead of hardening her, and a pliable substance is less easy to break than a stiff one.

~Edith Wharton

Life is made up of compromises.

~Edith Wharton

No insect hangs its nest on threads as frail as those which will sustain the weight of human vanity.

~Edith Wharton

My last page is always latent in my first; but the intervening windings of the way become clear only as I write.

~Edith Wharton

The visible world is a daily miracle, for those who have eyes and ears.

~Edith Wharton

Some things are best mended by a break.

~Edith Wharton

The visible world is a daily miracle for those who have eyes and ears; and I still warm hands thankfully at the old fire, though every year it is fed with the dry wood of more old memories.

~Edith Wharton

... caprice is as ruinous as routine.

~Edith Wharton

Only the fact that we are unaware how well our nearest know us enables us to live with them.

~Edith Wharton

The moment my eyes fell on him, I was content.

~Edith Wharton

His whole future seemed suddenly to be unrolled before him; and passing down its endless emptiness he saw the dwindling figure of a man to whom nothing was ever to happen.

~Edith Wharton

What Lily craved was the darkness made by enfolding arms, the silence which is not solitude, but compassion holding its breath.

~Edith Wharton

The early mist had vanished and the fields lay like a silver shield under the sun. It was one of the days when the glitter of winter shines through a pale haze of spring.

~Edith Wharton

The value of books is proportionate to what may be called their plasticity -- their quality of being all things to all men, of being diversely moulded by the impact of fresh forms of thought.

~Edith Wharton

She seemed to melt against him in her terror, and he caught her in his arms, held her fast there, felt her lashes beat his cheek like netted butterflies.

~Edith Wharton

The air of ideas is the only air worth breathing.

~Edith Wharton

To be able to look life in the face: that's worth living in a garret for, isn't it?

~Edith Wharton

Life is the saddest thing there is, next to death.

~Edith Wharton

traditions that have lost their meaning are the hardest of all to destroy.

~Edith Wharton

We can't behave like people in novels, though, can we?

~Edith Wharton

Everybody who does anything at all does too much.

~Edith Wharton

There are two ways to spread happiness; either be the light who shines it or be the mirror who reflects it.

~Edith Wharton

The only thing to do is to hug one's friends tight and do one's job.

~Edith Wharton

Don't they always go from bad to worse? There's no turning back--your old self rejects you, and shuts you out. ~Lilly Bart

~Edith Wharton

... naturalness is not always consonant with taste.

~Edith Wharton

Little as she was addicted to solitude, there had come to be moments

when it seemed a welcome escape from the empty noises of her life.

~Edith Wharton

I can't love you unless I give you up.

~Edith Wharton

Blessed are the pure in heart for they have so many more things to talk about.

~Edith Wharton

Her mind was an hotel where facts came and went like transient lodgers, without leaving their address behind, and frequently without paying for their board.

~Edith Wharton

Genius is of small use to a woman who does not know how to do her hair.

~Edith Wharton

They belonged to that vast group of human automata who go through life without neglecting to perform a single one of the gestures executed by the surrounding puppets.

~Edith Wharton

Life has a way of overgrowing its achievements as well as its ruins.

~Edith Wharton

Society soon grows used to any state of things which is imposed upon it without explanation.

~Edith Wharton

Inkstands and tea-cups are never as full as when one upsets them.

~Edith Wharton

...and wondering where he had read that clever liars give details, but that the cleverest do not.

~Edith Wharton

In our hurried world too little value is attached to the part of the connoisseur and dilettante.

~Edith Wharton

It is almost as stupid to let your clothes betray that you know you are ugly as to have them proclaim that you think you are beautiful.

~Edith Wharton

...every literature, in its main lines, reflects the chief characteristics of the people for whom, and about whom, it is written.

~Edith Wharton

The American landscape has no foreground and the American mind no background.

~Edith Wharton

The essence of taste is suitability. Divest the word of its prim and priggish implications, and see how it expresses the mysterious demand of the eye and mind for symmetry, harmony and order.

~Edith Wharton

I have never known a novel that was good enough to be good in spite of its being adapted to the author's political views.

~Edith Wharton

When people ask for time, it's always for time to say no. Yes has one more letter in it, but it doesn't take half as long to say.

~Edith Wharton

It's you who are telling me; opening my eyes to things I'd looked at so

long that I'd ceased to see them.

~Edith Wharton

Until the raw ingredients of a pudding make a pudding, I shall never believe that the raw material of sensation and thought can make a work of art without the cook's intervening.

~Edith Wharton

...though she had not had the strength to shake off the spell that bound her to him she had lost all spontaneity of feeling, and seemed to herself to be passively awaiting a fate she could not avert.

~Edith Wharton

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