

# Edward Dahlberg

## Quotes

*Men, Writing, Literature, People, Evil, Mistake, Long, Book, Imagination,  
Country, Strength, Love, Sex, Criticism, Animal, Business, Cities, Night,  
Narcissus, Together*

Herman Melville was as separated from a civilized literature as the lost Atlantis was said to have been from the great peoples of the earth.

~Edward Dahlberg

We cannot live, suffer or die for somebody else, for suffering is too precious to be shared.

~Edward Dahlberg

When one realizes that his life is worthless he either commits suicide or travels.

~Edward Dahlberg

Nothing in our times has become so unattractive as virtue.

~Edward Dahlberg

Recognize the cunning man not by the corpses he pays homage to but by the living writers he conspires against with the most shameful weapon, Silence, or the briefest review.

~Edward Dahlberg

It takes a long time to understand nothing.

~Edward Dahlberg

Writing is conscience, scruple, and the farming of our ancestors.

~Edward Dahlberg

It is very perplexing how an intrepid frontier people, who fought a wilderness, floods, tornadoes, and the Rockies, cower before criticism, which is regarded as a malignant tumor in the imagination.

~Edward Dahlberg

A strong foe is better than a weak friend.

~Edward Dahlberg

Narcissus never wrote well nor was a friend.

~Edward Dahlberg

There is a strange and mighty race of people called the Americans who are rapidly becoming the coldest in the world because of this cruel, man-eating idol, lucre.

~Edward Dahlberg

No country has suffered so much from the ruins of war while being at peace as the American.

~Edward Dahlberg

A painter can hang his pictures, but a writer can only hang himself.

~Edward Dahlberg

Those who write for lucre or fame are grosser than the cartel robbers, for they steal the genius of the people, which is its will to resist evil.

~Edward Dahlberg

Of all the animals on earth, none is so brutish as man when he seeks the delirium of coition.

~Edward Dahlberg

Ambition is a Dead Sea fruit, and the greatest peril to the soul is that one is likely to get precisely what he is seeking.

~Edward Dahlberg

Every decision you make is a mistake.

~Edward Dahlberg

Always like to look on the optimistic side of life, but I am realistic enough to know that life is a complex matter. Walt Disney Every decision you make is a mistake.

~Edward Dahlberg

The bad poet is a toady mimicking nature.

~Edward Dahlberg

I know sage, wormwood, and hyssop, but I can't smell character unless it stinks.

~Edward Dahlberg

The earnings of a poet could be reckoned by a metaphysician rather than a bookkeeper.

~Edward Dahlberg

To write is a humiliation.

~Edward Dahlberg

Men are mad most of their lives; few live sane, fewer die so. The acts of people are baffling unless we realize that their wits are disordered. Man is driven to justice by his lunacy.

~Edward Dahlberg

Intellectual sodomy, which comes from the refusal to be simple about plain matters, is as gross and abundant today as sexual perversion and they are nowise different from one another.

~Edward Dahlberg

Man hoards himself when he has nothing to give away.

~Edward Dahlberg

We are a most solitary people, and we live, repelled by one another, in the gray, outcast cities of Cain.

~Edward Dahlberg

We are always talking about being together, and yet whatever we invent destroys the family, and makes us wild, touchless beasts feeding on technicolor prairies and rivers.

~Edward Dahlberg

I would rather take hellebore than spend a conversation with a good, little man.

~Edward Dahlberg

Genius, like truth, has a shabby and neglected mien.

~Edward Dahlberg

The machine has had a pernicious effect upon virtue, pity, and love, and young men used to machines which induce inertia, and fear, are near impotent.

~Edward Dahlberg

Men are too unstable to be just; they are crabbed because they have not passed water at the usual time, or testy because they have not been stroked or praised.

~Edward Dahlberg

I have no confidence in a man whose faults you cannot see.

~Edward Dahlberg

Perhaps Samuel Johnson was a great man; he was certainly a drumbling one.

~Edward Dahlberg

One cat in a house is a sign of loneliness.

~Edward Dahlberg

Man pines to live but cannot endure the days of his life.

~Edward Dahlberg

A man who can be entertaining for a full day will be in his grave by night-fall.

~Edward Dahlberg

We can only write well about our sins because it is too difficult to recall a virtuous act or even whether it was the result of good or evil motives.

~Edward Dahlberg

The ancients understood the regulation of power better than the regulation of liberty.

~Edward Dahlberg

We are ruled by chance but never have enough patience to accept its despotism.

~Edward Dahlberg

It is hideous and coarse to assume that we can do something for others-and it is vile not to endeavor to do it.

~Edward Dahlberg

Utility is our national shibboleth: the savior of the American businessman is fact and his uterine half-brother, statistics.

~Edward Dahlberg

The Americans have always been food, sex, and spirit revivalists.

~Edward Dahlberg

Everything ultimately fails, for we die, and that is either the penultimate failure or our most enigmatical achievement.

~Edward Dahlberg

We are uneasy with an affectionate man, for we are positive he wants something of us, particularly our love.

~Edward Dahlberg

Man is at the nadir of his strength when the Earth, the seas, the

mountains are not in him, for without them his soul is unsourced, and he has no images by which to abide.

~Edward Dahlberg

Who has enough credit in this world to pay for his mistakes?

~Edward Dahlberg

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