

Elizabeth Hardwick

Quotes

Book, Art, Self, Reading, Writing, Character, Memories, Children, May, Passion, Cities, New York, Communication, Boston, Wish, Firsts, Sex, Baggage, Mean, Orphan

The greatest gift is a passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is a moral illumination.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

The greatest gift is a passion for reading.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Adversity is a great teacher, but this teacher makes us pay dearly for its instruction; and often the profit we derive, is not worth the price we paid.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Books give not wisdom where none was before. But where some is, there reading makes it more.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

The famous carry about with them a great weight of patriarchal baggage-the footnotes of their lives.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Self-love is an idolatry. Self-hatred is a tragedy.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

The fifties - they seem to have taken place on a sunny afternoon that asked nothing of you except a drifting belief in the moment and its power to satisfy.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Sometimes one has the feeling of an almost supernatural character to the shifts and changes in our national mood. They appear beyond the prose of cause and effect.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

The laughter of adults was always very different from the laughter of children. The former indicated a recognition of the familiar, but in children it came from the shock of the new.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

When you travel your first discovery is that you do not exist.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Since films and television have staged everything imaginable before it happens, a true event, taking place in the real world, brings to mind the landscape of films.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

The future may be an enemy. Time can turn happy days and nights into nothing.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Memory - the very skin of life.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Art is a profession, not a shrine.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Sex, without society as its landscape, has never been of much interest to fiction.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

[On sociability in Italy:] You may be a hermit or an innkeeper.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

While you are living, part of you has slipped away to the cemetery.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Gossip, or, as we gossips like to say, character analysis.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Here in the city the worst thing that can happen to a nation has happened: we are a people afraid of its youth.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Now, my novel begins. No, now I begin my novelâ€”and yet I cannot decide whether to call myself I or she.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

I am alone here in New York, no longer a we.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Canadians, do not vomit on me!

~Elizabeth Hardwick

They had created themselves together, and they always saw themselves, their youth, their love, their lost youth and lost love, their failures and memories, as a sort of living fiction.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Biology is destiny only for girls.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Houses of evil similarity appeared like rows of disciplined, humiliated orphans.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Writing is not "the establishment of a professional reputation" as if one were a doctor or lawyer; it is not properly in the sentence with creation of a family and the purchase of a home.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Making a living is nothing; the great difficulty is making a point, making

a difference-with words.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

the great is seldom a deterrent to the mediocre

~Elizabeth Hardwick

Sentences in which I have tried for a certain light tone -- many of those have to do with events, upheavals, destructions that caused me to weep like a child.

~Elizabeth Hardwick

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