

Elsa Maxwell

Quotes

*Party, People, Fire, Food, Intellectual, Cocktails, Cooking, Trying, Happiness,
Giving, Good Man, Literature, Successful, Secret, Lasts, Cemetery, Attitude,
Don't Hate, Book, Stills*

Laugh at yourself first, before anyone else can.

~Elsa Maxwell

Nothing spoils a good party like a genius.

~Elsa Maxwell

The cocktail party is easily the worst invention since castor oil

~Elsa Maxwell

Bores put you in a mental cemetery while you are still walking.

~Elsa Maxwell

Serve the dinner backward, do anything - but for goodness sake, do something weird.

~Elsa Maxwell

I make enemies deliberately. They are the sauce piquante to my dish of life.

~Elsa Maxwell

Someone has said that life itself is a party: you join after it's started and you leave before it's finished.

~Elsa Maxwell

Keep your talent in the dark and you'll never be insulted.

~Elsa Maxwell

Good manners - the longer I live the more convinced I am of it - are a priceless insurance against failure and loneliness. And anyone can have them.

~Elsa Maxwell

Under pressure, people admit to murder, setting fire to the village church or robbing a bank, but never to being bores.

~Elsa Maxwell

Intolerance of mediocrity has been the main prop of my independence.

~Elsa Maxwell

the wealthy ... live in marble mausoleums surrounded by the suspicions and neuroses that have replaced the medieval moats which once isolated so-called aristocrats from reality.

~Elsa Maxwell

Most rich people are the poorest people I know.

~Elsa Maxwell

Seeing unhappiness in the marriage of friends, I was content to have chosen music and laughter as a substitute for a husband.

~Elsa Maxwell

What is a bore? Maxwell definition: a vacuum cleaner of society, sucking up everything and giving nothing. How do you spot one? Bores are always anxious to be seen talking to you.

~Elsa Maxwell

Etiquette-a fancy word for simple kindness.

~Elsa Maxwell

Protocol may be defined as the code of etiquette which protects royalty from the competition of intellectual and social superiors.

~Elsa Maxwell

Only those who have earned leisure know how to use it profitably.

~Elsa Maxwell

Cocktails are society's most enduring invention!

~Elsa Maxwell

Good manners spring from just one thing - kind impulses.

~Elsa Maxwell

Anatomize the character of a successful hostess and the knife will lay bare the fact that she owes her position to one of three things: either she is liked, or she is feared, or she is important.

~Elsa Maxwell

To get fifty people to a cocktail party in New York, you ask one hundred. In Hollywood, you invite twenty.

~Elsa Maxwell

I don't hate anyone. I dislike. But my dislike is the equivalent of anyone else's hate.

~Elsa Maxwell

Giving parties is a trivial avocation, but it pays the dues for my union card in humanity.

~Elsa Maxwell

The secret of my success is that no woman has ever been jealous of me.

~Elsa Maxwell

don't try for wit. Settle for humor. You'll last longer.

~Elsa Maxwell

The loudest psalm singer in the congregation always is a reformed sinner.

~Elsa Maxwell

Down with boredom. It has to go.

~Elsa Maxwell

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