

Evelyn Waugh Quotes

People, Art, Thinking, Writing, Book, Literature, Brideshead Revisited, Needs, Years, Men, Heart, World, Long, Funny, Son, Self, Past, War, Home, Wine

Punctuality is the virtue of the bored.

~Evelyn Waugh

I should like to bury something precious in every place where I've been happy and then, when I'm old and ugly and miserable, I could come back and dig it up and remember.

~Evelyn Waugh

One forgets words as one forgets names. One's vocabulary needs constant fertilizing or it will die.

~Evelyn Waugh

Your actions, and your action alone, determines your worth.

~Evelyn Waugh

I have lived carefully, sheltered myself from the cold winds, eaten moderately of what was in season, drunk fine claret, slept in my own sheets; I shall live long.

~Evelyn Waugh

The truth is that Oxford is simply a very beautiful city in which it is convenient to segregate a certain number of the young of the nation while they are growing up.

~Evelyn Waugh

He was gifted with the sly, sharp instinct for self-preservation that passes for wisdom among the rich.

~Evelyn Waugh

Beer commercials are so patriotic: Made the American Way. What does that have to do with America? Is that what America stands for? Feeling sluggish and urinating frequently?

~Evelyn Waugh

Wine is a bride who brings a great dowry to the man who woos her persistently and gracefully.

~Evelyn Waugh

Sometimes, I feel the past and the future pressing so hard on either side that there's no room for the present at all.

~Evelyn Waugh

... To know and love one other human being is the root of all wisdom.

~Evelyn Waugh

An artist must be a reactionary. He has to stand out against the tenor of the age and not go flopping along.

~Evelyn Waugh

If a thing's worth doing at all, it's worth doing well.

~Evelyn Waugh

You have no idea how much nastier I would be if I was not a Catholic. Without supernatural aid I would hardly be a human being.

~Evelyn Waugh

After all, damn it, what does being in love mean if you can't trust a person.

~Evelyn Waugh

Perhaps host and guest is really the happiest relation for father and son.

~Evelyn Waugh

To see Stephen Spender fumbling with our rich and delicate language is to experience all the horror of seeing a Sevres vase in the hands of a chimpanzee.

~Evelyn Waugh

Feather-footed through the plashy fen passes the questing vole.'-William Boot

~Evelyn Waugh

If politicians and scientists were lazier, how much happier we should all be

~Evelyn Waugh

I did not know it was possible to be so miserable and live but I am told that this is a common experience.

~Evelyn Waugh

Remember that, however patient your study, you will never in adult life learn any language perfectly; the best you can hope for is to be a bore.

~Evelyn Waugh

The most futile and disastrous day seems well spent when it is reviewed through the blue, fragrant smoke of a Havana Cigar.

~Evelyn Waugh

One can write, think and pray exclusively of others; dreams are all egocentric.

~Evelyn Waugh

There is a species of person called a 'Modern Churchman' who draws the full salary of a beneficed clergyman and need not commit himself to any religious belief.

~Evelyn Waugh

Yes, cider and tinned salmon are the staple diet of the agricultural classes.

~Evelyn Waugh

We cherish our friends not for their ability to amuse us, but for ours to

amuse them...

~Evelyn Waugh

Words should be an intense pleasure just as leather should be to a shoemaker.

~Evelyn Waugh

It is a curious thing... that every creed promises a paradise which will be absolutely uninhabitable for anyone of civilized taste.

~Evelyn Waugh

The splendid thing about education is that everyone wants it. Like influenza, you can give it away without losing any of it yourself.

~Evelyn Waugh

It doesn't matter what people call you unless they call you pigeon pie and eat you up.

~Evelyn Waugh

Every Englishman abroad, until it is proved to the contrary, likes to consider himself a traveller and not a tourist.

~Evelyn Waugh

Port is not for the very young, the vain and the active. It is the comfort of age and the companion of the scholar and the philosopher

~Evelyn Waugh

O God, make me good, but not yet.

~Evelyn Waugh

A typical triumph of modern science to find the only part of Randolph that was not malignant and remove it.

~Evelyn Waugh

I don't believe that people would ever fall in love or want to be married if they hadn't been told about it. It's like abroad: no one would want to go there if they hadn't been told it existed.

~Evelyn Waugh

Manners are especially the need of the plain. The pretty can get away with anything.

~Evelyn Waugh

We possess nothing certainly except the past

~Evelyn Waugh

When we argue for our limitations, we get to keep them.

~Evelyn Waugh

The human mind is inspired enough when it comes to inventing horrors; it is when it tries to invent a Heaven that it shows itself cloddish.

~Evelyn Waugh

For in that city [New York] there is neurosis in the air which the inhabitants mistake for energy.

~Evelyn Waugh

Instead of this absurd division into sexes they ought to class people as static and dynamic.

~Evelyn Waugh

My unhealthy affection for my second daughter has waned. Now I despise all my seven children equally.

~Evelyn Waugh

Don't hold your parents up to contempt. After all, you are their son, and it is just possible that you may take after them.

~Evelyn Waugh

Almost all crime is due to the repressed desire for aesthetic expression.

~Evelyn Waugh

We class schools into four grades: leading school, first-rate school, good school and school.

~Evelyn Waugh

There's only one great evil in the world today. Despair.

~Evelyn Waugh

Conversation should be like juggling; up go the balls and plates, up and over, in and out, good solid objects that glitter in the footlights and fall with a bang if you miss them.

~Evelyn Waugh

We schoolmasters must temper discretion with deceit.

~Evelyn Waugh

If it could only be like this always - always summer, always alone, the fruit always ripe and Aloysius in a good temper.

~Evelyn Waugh

I have a good mind not to take Aloysius to Venice. I don't want him to meet a lot of horrid Italian bears and pick up bad habits.

~Evelyn Waugh

Of the many smells of Athens two seem to me the most characteristic - that of garlic, bold and deadly like acetylene gas. and that of dust, soft and warm and caressing like tweed.

~Evelyn Waugh

We are American at puberty. We die French.

~Evelyn Waugh

O God, if there is a God, forgive him his sins, if there is such a thing as sin.

~Evelyn Waugh

I'm one of the blind alleys off the main road of procreation.

~Evelyn Waugh

Words have basic inalienable meanings, departure from which is either conscious metaphor or inexcusable vulgarity.

~Evelyn Waugh

Professional reviewers read so many bad books in the course of duty that they get an unhealthy craving for arresting phrases.

~Evelyn Waugh

Money is only useful when you get rid of it. It is like the odd card in 'Old Maid'; the player who is finally left with it has lost.

~Evelyn Waugh

A work of art is not a matter of thinking beautiful thoughts or experiencing tender emotions, but of intelligence, skill, taste, proportion, knowledge, discipline and industry; especially discipline.

~Evelyn Waugh

There is something incomparably thrilling in first opening a brand new book.

~Evelyn Waugh

Anyone who has been to an English public school will always feel comparatively at home in prison. It is the people brought up in the gay intimacy of the slums who find prison so soul-destroying.

~Evelyn Waugh

The trouble with modern education is you never know how ignorant

they are.

~Evelyn Waugh

You never find an Englishman among the under-dogs except in England, of course.

~Evelyn Waugh

My children weary me. I can only see them as defective adults: feckless, destructive, frivolous, sensual, humorless.

~Evelyn Waugh

I think there's almost nothing I can't excuse except perhaps worshipping graven images. That seems to be idiotic.

~Evelyn Waugh

He did not fail in love, but he lost the joy of it [...]

~Evelyn Waugh

That's the public-school system all over. They may kick you out, but they never let you down.

~Evelyn Waugh

We can trace almost all the disasters of English history to the influence of Wales.

~Evelyn Waugh

Once you start changing a name, you see, there's no reason ever to stop. One always hears one that sounds better.

~Evelyn Waugh

If *Brideshead Revisited* is not a great book, it's so like a great book that many of us, at least while reading it, find it hard to tell the difference.

~Evelyn Waugh

Where can we hide in fair weather, we orphans of the storm?

~Evelyn Waugh

What is youth except a man or a woman before it is ready or fit to be seen.

~Evelyn Waugh

I think to be oversensitive about cliches is like being oversensitive about table manners.

~Evelyn Waugh

I haven't been to sleep for over a year. That's why I go to bed early. One needs more rest if one doesn't sleep.

~Evelyn Waugh

I can't bare you when you're not amusing.

~Evelyn Waugh

In the dying world I come from, quotation is a national vice.

~Evelyn Waugh

The languor of Youth - how unique and quintessential it is! How quickly, how irrecoverably, lost!

~Evelyn Waugh

These memories, which are my life--for we possess nothing certainly except the past--were always with me.

~Evelyn Waugh

Of children as of procreation -- the pleasure momentary, the posture ridiculous, the expense damnable

~Evelyn Waugh

Have you at any time been detained in a mental home or similar

institution? If so, give particulars.' 'I was at Scone College, Oxford, for two years,' said Paul.

~Evelyn Waugh

If we can't stamp out literature in the country, we can at least stop its being brought in from outside.

~Evelyn Waugh

'I don't believe you've changed at all, Charles.' 'No, I'm afraid not.' 'D'you want to change?' 'It's the only evidence of life.'

~Evelyn Waugh

Beavers bred in captivity, inhabiting a concrete pool, will, if given the timber, fatuously go through all the motions of damming an ancestral stream.

~Evelyn Waugh

She had heard someone say something about an Independent Labour Party, and was furious that she had not been asked.

~Evelyn Waugh

That was the change in her from ten years ago; that, indeed, was her reward, this haunting, magical sadness which spoke straight to the heart and struck silence; it was the completion of her beauty.

~Evelyn Waugh

No one is ever holy without suffering.

~Evelyn Waugh

An artist must be a reactionary

~Evelyn Waugh

Pray always for all the learned, the oblique, the delicate. Let them not be quite forgotten at the throne of God when the simple come into their

kingdom.

~Evelyn Waugh

Free as air; that's what they say- "free as air". Now they bring me my air in an iron barrel.

~Evelyn Waugh

Only when one has lost all curiosity about the future has one reached the age to write an autobiography.

~Evelyn Waugh

All this fuss about sleeping together. For physical pleasure I'd sooner go to my dentist any day.

~Evelyn Waugh

Not everyone grows to be old, but everyone has been younger than he is now.

~Evelyn Waugh

I regard writing not as an investigation of character but as an exercise in the use of language, and with this I am obsessed.

~Evelyn Waugh

News is what a chap who doesn't care much about anything wants to read.

~Evelyn Waugh

I put the words down and push them a bit.

~Evelyn Waugh

...she had regained what I thought she had lost forever, the magical sadness which had drawn me to her, the thwarted look that had seemed to say, "Surely I was made for some other purpose than this?"

~Evelyn Waugh

The worse I am, the more I need God. I can't shut myself out from His mercy. That is what it would mean; starting a life with you, without Him.
Julia to Charles

~Evelyn Waugh

Self-sufficiency at home, self-assertion abroad.

~Evelyn Waugh

My theme is memory, that winged host that soared about me one grey morning of war-time. We possess nothing certainly except the past.

~Evelyn Waugh

It is no longer possible to accept the benefits of civilization and at the same time deny the supernatural basis upon which it is based.

~Evelyn Waugh

To understand all is to forgive all.

~Evelyn Waugh

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