

# Graham Greene

## Quotes

*Men, Writing, People, Pain, Hate, Believe, Lying, Literature, Love, Thinking, Hands, Heart, Mean, World, Character, Memories, Years, Two, Long, Children*

There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in.

~Graham Greene

My two fingers on a typewriter have never connected with my brain. My hand on a pen does. A fountain pen, of course. Ball-point pens are only good for filling out forms on a plane.

~Graham Greene

Hate is a lack of imagination.

~Graham Greene

Our worst enemies here are not the ignorant and simple, however cruel; our worst enemies are the intelligent and corrupt

~Graham Greene

Innocence always calls mutely for protection when we would be so much wiser to guard ourselves against it: innocence is like a dumb leper who has lost his bell, wandering the world, meaning no harm.

~Graham Greene

Innocence is like a dumb leper who has lost his bell, wandering the world, meaning no harm.

~Graham Greene

A story has no beginning or end: arbitrarily one chooses that moment of experience from which to look back or from which to look ahead.

~Graham Greene

A single feat of daring can alter the whole conception of what is possible.

~Graham Greene

Sweet are the thoughts that savor of content: the quiet mind is richer

than a crown.

~Graham Greene

People who like quotes love meaningless generalizations

~Graham Greene

In human relationships, kindness and lies are worth a thousand truths.

~Graham Greene

Hate is an automatic response to fear, for fear humiliates.

~Graham Greene

You cannot conceive, nor can I, of the appalling strangeness of the mercy of God.

~Graham Greene

Insecurity twists meanings and poisons trust. In a closely beleaguered city every sentry is a potential traitor.

~Graham Greene

It's a strange thing to discover and to believe that you are loved when you know that there is nothing in you for anybody but a parent or a God to love.

~Graham Greene

In Switzerland they had brotherly love, five hundred years of democracy and peace, and what did they produce? The cuckoo clock!

~Graham Greene

Success is more dangerous than failure, the ripples break over a wider coastline.

~Graham Greene

In the end there is no desire so deep as the simple desire for

companionship.

~Graham Greene

The truth has never been of any real value to any human being - it is a symbol for mathematicians and philosophers to pursue. In human relations kindness and lies are worth a thousand truths.

~Graham Greene

Against the beautiful and the clever and the successful, one can wage a pitiless war, but not against the unattractive: then the millstone weighs on the breast.

~Graham Greene

Of two hearts one is always warm and one is always cold: the cold heart is more precious than diamonds: the warm heart has no value and is thrown away.

~Graham Greene

Champagne, if you are seeking the truth, is better than a lie detector. It encourages a man to be expansive, even reckless, while lie detectors are only a challenge to tell lies successfully.

~Graham Greene

He was impregnably armored by his good intentions and his ignorance.

~Graham Greene

Champagne, if you are seeking the truth, is better than a lie detector.

~Graham Greene

...every monologue sooner or later becomes a discussion.

~Graham Greene

One can't love humanity. One can only love people.

~Graham Greene

When we are not sure, we are alive.

~Graham Greene

At one with the One, it didn't mean a thing besides a glass of Guinness on a sunny day.

~Graham Greene

A petty reason perhaps why novelists more and more try to keep a distance from journalists is that novelists are trying to write the truth and journalists are trying to write fiction.

~Graham Greene

As long as nothing happens anything is possible.

~Graham Greene

Media is just a word that has come to mean bad journalism.

~Graham Greene

Sometimes I see myself reflected too closely in other men for comfort, and then I have an enormous wish to believe in the saints, in heroic virtue.

~Graham Greene

I can't talk you in terms of time --your time and my time are different

~Graham Greene

Point me out the happy man and I will point you out either egotism, selfishness, evil - or else an absolute ignorance.

~Graham Greene

Politics, war, marriage, crime, adultery. Everything that exists in the world has something to do with money.

~Graham Greene

Morality comes with the sad wisdom of age, when the sense of curiosity has withered.

~Graham Greene

A movie is not a book. If the source material is a book, you cannot be too respectful of the book. All you owe to the book is the spirit.

~Graham Greene

Human nature is not black and white but black and grey.

~Graham Greene

So it always is: when you escape to a desert the silence shouts in your ear.

~Graham Greene

I had to touch you with my hands, I had to taste you with my tongue; one can't love and do nothing.

~Graham Greene

Indifference and pride look very much alike, and he probably thought I was proud.

~Graham Greene

There's a virtue in slowness, which we have lost

~Graham Greene

Eternity is said not to be an extension of time but an absence of time.

~Graham Greene

Friendship is something in the soul. It is a thing one feels. It is not a return for something.

~Graham Greene

Innocence is a kind of insanity

~Graham Greene

Pity is cruel. Pity destroys.

~Graham Greene

If you have abandoned one faith, do not abandon all faith. There is always an alternative to the faith we lose. Or is it the same faith under another mask?

~Graham Greene

The hands of the guilty don't necessarily tremble; only in stories does a dropped glass betray agitation. Tension is more often shown in the studied action.

~Graham Greene

Despair is the price one pays for setting himself an impossible aim.

~Graham Greene

Unhappiness in a child accumulates because he sees no end to the dark tunnel. The thirteen weeks of a term might just as well be thirteen years.

~Graham Greene

Thrillers are like life, more like life than you are.

~Graham Greene

Christmas it seems to me is a necessary festival; we require a season when we can regret all the flaws in our human relationships: it is the feast of failure, sad but consoling.

~Graham Greene

God save us always,' I said 'from the innocent and the good.

~Graham Greene

I measured love by the extent of my jealousy.

~Graham Greene

In a mad world it always seems simpler to obey.

~Graham Greene

I hate you, God. I hate you as though you actually exist.

~Graham Greene

Thought's a luxury. Do you think the peasant sits and thinks of God and Democracy when he gets inside his mud hut at night?

~Graham Greene

Sentimentality - that's what we call the sentiment we don't share.

~Graham Greene

Childhood was the germ of all mistrust. You were cruelly joked upon and then you cruelly joked. You lost the remembrance of pain through inflicting it.

~Graham Greene

It was like having a box of chocolates shut in the bedroom drawer. Until the box was empty it occupied the mind too much.

~Graham Greene

A man kept his character even when he was insane.

~Graham Greene

He's satisfied with himself. If you have a soul you can't be satisfied.

~Graham Greene

For an artist to think in terms of success is like a priest trying to think in terms of success.

~Graham Greene



It is the storytellers task to elicit sympathy and a measure of understanding for those who lie outside the boundaries of State approval.

~Graham Greene

I say that home is where there is a chair and a glass.

~Graham Greene

We forget very easily what gives us pain.

~Graham Greene

Like some wines our love could neither mature nor travel.

~Graham Greene

People talk about the courage of condemned men walking to the place of execution: sometimes it needs as much courage to walk with any kind of bearing towards another person's habitual misery.

~Graham Greene

A solitary laugh is often a laugh of superiority.

~Graham Greene

Heresy is only another word for freedom of thought.

~Graham Greene

I wish sometimes you had a few bad motives, you might understand a little more about human beings.

~Graham Greene

All good novelists have bad memories. What you remember comes out as journalism; what you forget goes into the compost of the imagination.

~Graham Greene

Pain is easy to write. In pain we're all happily individual. But what can one write about happiness?

~Graham Greene

Sooner or later... one has to take sides. If one is to remain human.

~Graham Greene

A brain is only capable of what it could conceive, and it couldn't conceive what it hasn't experienced

~Graham Greene

Self-expression is a hard and selfish thing. It eats everything, even the self. At the end you find you haven't even got a self to express.

~Graham Greene

There was always another side to a joke, the side of the victim.

~Graham Greene

The economy of a novelist is a little like that of a careful housewife who is unwilling to throw away anything that might perhaps serve its turn.

~Graham Greene

Lust is not the worst thing. It is because any day, any time, lust may turn into love that we have to avoid it. And when we love our sin then we are damned indeed.

~Graham Greene

There are times when a lover longs to be also a father and a brother: he is jealous of the years he hasn't shared.

~Graham Greene

It's a pity people pick and choose what they learn from the Bible.

~Graham Greene

There was a tacit understanding between them that 'liquor helped'; growing more miserable with every glass one hoped for the moment of relief.

~Graham Greene

Grief and disappointment are like hate: they make men ugly with self-pity and bitterness. And how selfish they make us too.

~Graham Greene

The problem of pretending to be alive.

~Graham Greene

You cannot love without intuition.

~Graham Greene

I've caught belief like a disease. I've fallen into belief like I fell in love.

~Graham Greene

It is impossible to go through life without trust: that is to be imprisoned in the worst cell of all, oneself.

~Graham Greene

She mixes religion with desertion to make it sound noble.

~Graham Greene

Most things disappoint till you look deeper.

~Graham Greene

When I replied that I loved her too in that way, I was the liar, not she, for I never lose the consciousness of time: to me the present is never here: it is always last year or next week.

~Graham Greene

In our hearts there is a ruthless dictator, ready to contemplate the

misery of a thousand strangers if it will ensure the happiness of the few we love.

~Graham Greene

It is always of interest to know what strikes another human being as remarkable.

~Graham Greene

You needn't be so scared. Love doesn't end. Just because we don't see each other.

~Graham Greene

Any man who knocks on the door of a brothel is looking for God.

~Graham Greene

Cynicism is cheap - you can buy it at any Monoprix store - it's built into all poor-quality goods.

~Graham Greene

Happiness is never really so welcome as changelessness.

~Graham Greene

He felt the loyalty we feel to unhappiness - the sense that is where we really belong.

~Graham Greene

Never presume yours is a better morality.

~Graham Greene

Hope was an instinct only the reasoning human mind could kill. An animal never knew despair.

~Graham Greene

Ordinary life goes on--that has saved many a man's reason.

~Graham Greene

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