

# Helene Hanff

## Quotes

*Book, Reading, Long, People, Pages, Thinking, Home, Eye, Writing, Years,  
Despair, Wells, Heart, Ghost, Alive, Looks, Grease, Leaving, Principles,  
Crosses*

Standing there, staring at the long shelves crammed with books, I felt myself relax and was suddenly at peace.

~Helene Hanff

I love inscriptions on flyleaves and notes in margins, I like the comradely sense of turning pages someone else turned, and reading passages someone long gone has called my attention to.

~Helene Hanff

If you happen to pass by 84 Charing Cross Road, kiss it for me? I owe it so much.

~Helene Hanff

Why is it that people who wouldn't dream of stealing anything else think it's perfectly all right to steal books?

~Helene Hanff

And for at least that moment, I wouldn't have traded the hundreds of books I've read for the few I know almost by heart.

~Helene Hanff

I wanted to see London the way old people want to see home before they die.

~Helene Hanff

History, as they say, is alive and well and living in London.

~Helene Hanff

Talent is the infinite capacity for taking pains. Genius is the infinite capacity for achievement without taking any pains at all.

~Helene Hanff

Hollywood isn't a place, it's a way of life.

~Helene Hanff

It's against my principles to buy a book I haven't read, it's like buying a dress you haven't tried on.

~Helene Hanff

I liked reading about the nun who ate so dainty with her fingers she never dripped any grease on herself. I've never been able to make that claim and I use a fork.

~Helene Hanff

I do love secondhand books that open to the page some previous owner read oftenest.

~Helene Hanff

What fortune teller would ever have had the nerve to predict that the best years of my life would turn out to be my old age?

~Helene Hanff

I personally can't think of anything less sacrosanct than a bad book or even a mediocre book.

~Helene Hanff

I never overcame my conviction that writing for commercial television was a kind of prostitution.

~Helene Hanff

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