

# Irwin Shaw

## Quotes

*Literature, Writing, Stories, Football, Sports, People, Book, Critics, Thinking, Ideas, Character, Shows, Bigs, Editors, Magazines, Periods, Young, Sight, Long, Sticks*

Writing is like a contact sport, like football. You can get hurt, but you enjoy it.

~Irwin Shaw

When I started out in the early 1930s, there were a great many magazines that published short stories. Unfortunately, the short-story market has dwindled to almost nothing.

~Irwin Shaw

Ernest Hemingway did a great deal toward making the writer an acceptable public figure; obviously, he was no sissy.

~Irwin Shaw

I never drink while I'm working, but after a few glasses I get ideas that would never have occurred to me dead sober.

~Irwin Shaw

The last paragraph in which you tell what the story is about is almost always best left out.

~Irwin Shaw

Critics in New York are made by their dislikes, not by their enthusiasms.

~Irwin Shaw

Writing for the theater, you find yourself living a nocturnal life

~Irwin Shaw

People who light up like Roman candles come down in the dark very quickly.

~Irwin Shaw

If football players were armed with guns, there wouldn't be stadiums large enough to hold the crowds.

~Irwin Shaw

The great writers just kept bringing them out. They didn't care if they repeated themselves.

~Irwin Shaw

There are too many books I haven't read, too many places I haven't seen, too many memories I haven't kept long enough.

~Irwin Shaw

I haven't stuck to any formula. Most great writers stick to the same style, but I wanted to be more various

~Irwin Shaw

Every novelist has a different purpose-and often several purposes which might even be contradictory.

~Irwin Shaw

I imagine that my characters have become much more complicated than when I first began, which would be normal

~Irwin Shaw

I don't think that the writer is regarded as a freak by Americans

~Irwin Shaw

At the height of the McCarthy period, writers were being hounded.

~Irwin Shaw

I am forced to say that I have many fiercer critics than myself.

~Irwin Shaw

Posterity makes the judgments. There are going to be a lot of surprises in store for everybody.

~Irwin Shaw

A good editor understands what you're talking and writing about and doesn't meddle too much.

~Irwin Shaw

In the theater, characters have to cut the umbilical cord from the writer and talk in their own voices

~Irwin Shaw

I've gone on the wagon, but my body doesn't believe it.

~Irwin Shaw

I'm not as hopeful as I was when I was young

~Irwin Shaw

If you're young enough, any kind of writing you do for a short period of time is a marvelous apprenticeship.

~Irwin Shaw

No writer need feel sorry for himself if he writes and enjoys it, even if he doesn't get paid.

~Irwin Shaw

My views naturally have mellowed. Most of the critics have been more or less nice to me

~Irwin Shaw

My favorite short-story writer is John Cheever

~Irwin Shaw

I look at everything. God gave me eyes and I look at women and men and subway excavations and moving pictures and the little flowers of the field. I casually inspect the universe.

~Irwin Shaw

All writers are the same - they forget a thousand good reviews and remember one bad one.

~Irwin Shaw

Curiously, the United States is full of writers who have one big work in their life and that's all.

~Irwin Shaw

I cringe when critics say I'm a master of the popular novel. What's an unpopular novel?

~Irwin Shaw

Writing is finally play, and there's no reason why you should get paid for playing

~Irwin Shaw

The writer works in a lonely way.

~Irwin Shaw

In a novel, it's hard to keep track of everybody

~Irwin Shaw

Writers of fiction, when they begin, are more likely to try the short form

~Irwin Shaw

You must avoid giving hostages to fortune, like getting an expensive wife, an expensive house, and a style of living that never lets you afford the time to take the chance to write what you wish.

~Irwin Shaw

Kennedy was a man who liked writers and even I got invited to the White House

~Irwin Shaw

In America, we have the feeling of the doomed young artist. Fitzgerald was the great example of that.

~Irwin Shaw

In Europe, a writer is supposed to improve up until he's about 75

~Irwin Shaw

Isaac Singer was born in Poland and doesn't write in English. Still, he's an American.

~Irwin Shaw

My attitudes have changed, but somebody would have to read all my books to find out how they have

~Irwin Shaw

You have to expect the raps when you have achieved popularity as a writer

~Irwin Shaw

The romantic idea is that everybody around a writer must suffer for his talent. I think a writer is a citizen of humanity, part of his nation, part of his family. He may have to make some compromises.

~Irwin Shaw

I never show anything to anybody until I've finished it

~Irwin Shaw

A writer is a human being. He has to live with a sense of honor.

~Irwin Shaw

I reach my readers regardless of what the critics have written

~Irwin Shaw

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