

# J. B. Priestley

## Quotes

*Men, Writing, Age, People, Children, Years, Two, Real, Facts, Ideas, Dream,  
Delight, Faces, Hair, Husband, Mind, War, Youth, Revenge, Civilization*

The more we elaborate our means of communication, the less we communicate.

~J. B. Priestley

I have always been delighted at the prospect of a new day, a fresh try, one more start, with perhaps a bit of magic waiting somewhere behind the morning.

~J. B. Priestley

To show a child what once delighted you, to find the child's delight added to your own - this is happiness.

~J. B. Priestley

We cannot get grace from gadgets.

~J. B. Priestley

If we openly declare what is wrong with us, what is our deepest need, then perhaps the death and despair will by degrees disappear.

~J. B. Priestley

A good holiday is one spent among people whose notions of time are vaguer than yours.

~J. B. Priestley

We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other.

~J. B. Priestley

Living in an age of advertisement, we are perpetually disillusioned. The perfect life is spread before us every day, but it changes and withers at a touch.

~J. B. Priestley

Britain, which in the years immediately before this war was rapidly losing such democratic virtues as it possessed, is now being bombed

and burned into democracy.

~J. B. Priestley

To multiply your joy, count your blessings.

~J. B. Priestley

Write as often as possible, not with the idea at once of getting into print, but as if you were learning an instrument.

~J. B. Priestley

To say that these men paid their shillings to watch twenty-two hirelings kick a ball is merely to say that a violin is wood and catgut, that Hamlet is so much paper and ink.

~J. B. Priestley

Man, the creature who knows he must die, who has dreams larger than his destiny, who is forever working a confidence trick on himself, needs an ally. Mine has been tobacco.

~J. B. Priestley

To resent and remember brings strife; to forgive and forget brings peace.

~J. B. Priestley

To put failure behind you, face up to it.

~J. B. Priestley

The most lasting reputation I have is for an almost ferocious aggressiveness, when in fact I am amiable, indulgent, affectionate, shy and rather timid at heart.

~J. B. Priestley

It is good fiction, so largely ignored now, that brings us so much closer to the real facts.

~J. B. Priestley

If you are a genius, you'll make your own rules, but if not - and the odds are against it - go to your desk no matter what your mood, face the icy challenge of the paper - write.

~J. B. Priestley

Western man is schizophrenic.

~J. B. Priestley

We cannot get grace from gadgets. In the Bakelite house of the future, the dishes may not break, but the heart can. Even a man with ten shower baths may find life flat, stale and unprofitable.

~J. B. Priestley

Many a man is praised for his reserve and so-called shyness when he is simply too proud to risk making a fool of himself.

~J. B. Priestley

Public opinion polls are rather like children in a garden, digging things up all the time to see how they're growing.

~J. B. Priestley

I know only two words of American slang, 'swell' and 'lousy'. I think 'swell' is lousy, but 'lousy' is swell.

~J. B. Priestley

Comedy, we may say, is society protecting itself - with a smile.

~J. B. Priestley

There was no respect for youth when I was young, and now that I am old, there is no respect for age, I missed it coming and going.

~J. B. Priestley

Those no-sooner-have-I-touched-the-pillow people are past my comprehension. There is something bovine about them.

~J. B. Priestley

The real lost souls don't wear their hair long and play guitars. They have crew cuts and trained minds, sign on for research in biological warfare, and don't give their parents a moment's worry.

~J. B. Priestley

The point is to be good-to be sensitive and sincere.

~J. B. Priestley

Like its politicians and its wars, society has the teenagers it deserves.

~J. B. Priestley

Living in an age of advertisement, we are perpetually disillusioned.

~J. B. Priestley

Any fool can be fussy and rid himself of energy all over the place, but a man has to have something in him before he can settle down to do nothing.

~J. B. Priestley

The greatest writers of this age... are aware of the mystery of our existence.

~J. B. Priestley

She was a handsome woman of forty-five and would remain so for many years.

~J. B. Priestley

Our trouble is that we drink too much tea. I see in this the slow revenge of the Orient, which has diverted the Yellow River down our throats.

~J. B. Priestley

What a grand, higgledy-piggledy, sensible old place Norwich is!

~J. B. Priestley

If there is one thing left that I would like to do, it's to write something really beautiful. And I could do it, you know. I could still do it.

~J. B. Priestley

Childhood, catching our imagination when it is fresh and tender, never lets go of us.

~J. B. Priestley

In a matriarchy men should be encouraged to take it easy, for most women prefer live husbands to blocks of shares and seats on the board.

~J. B. Priestley

I can't help feeling wary when I hear anything said about the masses. First you take their faces from 'em by calling 'em the masses and then you accuse 'em of not having any faces.

~J. B. Priestley

We must beware the revenge of the starved senses, the embittered animal in its prison.

~J. B. Priestley

Perhaps it would be better not to be a writer, but if you must, then write.

~J. B. Priestley

Much of writing might be described as mental pregnancy with successive difficult deliveries.

~J. B. Priestley

In a world shaped and colored more and more by politicians, the

nations meet politically, and hardly any other way to settle their differences.

~J. B. Priestley

Marriage is like paying an endless visit in your worst clothes.

~J. B. Priestley

Depending upon shock tactics is easy, whereas writing a good play is difficult. Pubic hair is no substitute for wit.

~J. B. Priestley

One of the delights known to age, and beyond the grasp of youth, is that of Not Going.

~J. B. Priestley

Sometimes you might think the machines we worship make all the chief appointments, promoting the human beings who seem closest to them.

~J. B. Priestley

I'm in the business of providing people with secondary satisfactions. It wouldn't have done me much good if they had all written their own plays, would it?

~J. B. Priestley

Accidents, try to change them - it's impossible. The accidental reveals man.

~J. B. Priestley

I never read the life of any important person without discovering that he knew more and could do more than I could ever hope to know or do in half a dozen lifetimes.

~J. B. Priestley

Our dourest parsons, who followed the nonconformist fashion of long

extemporary prayers, always seemed to me to be bent on bullying God.

~J. B. Priestley

The people who pretend that dying is rather like strolling into the next room always leave me unconvinced. Death, like birth, must be a tremendous event.

~J. B. Priestley

There are plenty of clever young writers. But there is too much genius, not enough talent.

~J. B. Priestley

I fancy that the Hell of Too Many People would occupy a respectable place in the hierarchy of infernal regions.

~J. B. Priestley

In spite of recent jazzed-up one-day matches, cricket to be fully appreciated demands leisure, some sunny warm days and an understanding of its finer points.

~J. B. Priestley

To love to teach is one thing, to love those you teach is another.

~J. B. Priestley

A novelist who writes nothing for 10 years finds his reputation rising. Because I keep on producing books they say there must be something wrong with this fellow.

~J. B. Priestley

Most writers enjoy two periods of happiness when a glorious idea comes to mind and, secondly, when a last page has been written and you haven't had time to know how much better it ought to be.

~J. B. Priestley



To make the most of Christmas, focus on Christ.

~J. B. Priestley

No matter how piercing and appalling his insights, the desolation creeping over his outer world, the lurid lights and shadows of his inner world, the writer must live with hope, work in faith

~J. B. Priestley

It is hard to tell where the MCC ends and the Church of England begins.

~J. B. Priestley

I have always been a grumbler. I am designed for the part - sagging face, weighty underlip, rumbling, resonant voice. Money couldn't buy a better grumbling outfit.

~J. B. Priestley

A synopsis is a cold thing. You do it with the front of your mind. If you're going to stay with it, you never get quite the same magic as when you're going all out.

~J. B. Priestley

A loving wife will do anything for her husband except stop criticizing him and trying to improve him.

~J. B. Priestley

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