

James Agee

Quotes

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The goal is the same: life itself; and the price is the same; life itself.

~James Agee

The mere attempt to examine my own confusion would consume volumes.

~James Agee

You must be in tune with the times and prepared to break with tradition.

~James Agee

The artist's task is not to alter the world as the eye sees it into a world of aesthetic reality, but to perceive the aesthetic reality within the actual reality. (On photographs by Helen Levitt)

~James Agee

Isn't every human being both a scientist and an artist; and in writing of human experience, isn't there a good deal to be said for recognizing that fact and for using both methods?

~James Agee

Some people get where they hope to in this world. Most of us don't.

~James Agee

You've got to bear it in mind that nobody that ever lived is specially privileged; the axe can fall at any moment, on any neck, without any warning or any regard for justice.

~James Agee

I'm very anxious not to fall into archaism or 'literary' diction. I want my vocabulary to have a very large range, but the words must be alive.

~James Agee

A mother never realizes that her children are no longer children.

~James Agee

The camera seems to me, next to unassisted and weaponless consciousness, the central instrument of our time.

~James Agee

Just spunk won't be enough; you've got to have gumption.

~James Agee

I know the most important faculty to develop is one for hard, continuous and varied work and living; but the difference between knowing this and doing anything consistent about it is often abysmal.

~James Agee

Seems as unfounded ... to say there isn't a God as to say there is.

~James Agee

Well, now, some people learn a little quicker than others. It's nice to learn fast but it's nice to take your time too.

~James Agee

It is a peculiar part of the good photographer's adventure to know where luck is most likely to lie in the stream, to hook it, and to bring it in without unfair play and without too much subduing it.

~James Agee

Truth lies within a little and certain compass, but error is immense.

~James Agee

Children, taught either years beneath their intelligence or miles wide of relevance to it, or both: their intelligence becomes hopelessly bewildered, drawn off its centers, bored, or atrophied.

~James Agee

This continent, an open palm spread frank before the sky.

~James Agee

I suspect the fault...is in me: that I hate any job on earth, as a job and a hindrance and a semi-suicide.

~James Agee

God doesn't believe in the easy way.

~James Agee

All of consciousness is shifted from the imagined, the revisive, to the effort to perceive simply the cruel radiance of what is

~James Agee

We are talking now of summer evenings in Knoxville, Tennessee, in the time that I lived there so successfully disguised to myself as a child.

~James Agee

A girl's brain is mysterious, but only in a superficial way-a way very exasperating to me.

~James Agee

I'll do what little I can in writing. Only it will be very little. I'm not capable of it; and if I were, you would not go near it at all. For if you did, you would hardly bear to live

~James Agee

I know I am making the choice most dangerous to an artist in valuing life above art.

~James Agee

One thing I feel is this: that a great deal of poetry is the product of adolescence-or of an emotionally adolescent frame of mind: and that as this state of mind changes, poetry is likely to dry up.

~James Agee

The camera is just a machine, which records with impressive and as a rule very cruel faithfulness.

~James Agee

It is clear enough by now to most people that the camera never lies is a foolish saying. Yet it is doubtful whether most people realize how extraordinarily slippery a liar the camera is.

~James Agee

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