

James Stephens

Quotes

*Men, Wisdom, Past, Giving, Gaiety, Memories, Flying, Joy, Fifteen, People,
Dare, Finality, Tree, Shells, Cry, Fit, Wedding, Pain, Bird, Lying*

Originality does not consist in saying what no one has ever said before, but in saying exactly what you think yourself.

~James Stephens

What the heart knows today the head will understand tomorrow.

~James Stephens

We get wise by asking questions, and even if these are not answered we get wise, for a well-packed question carries its answer on its back as a snail carries its shell.

~James Stephens

Let the past be content with itself, for man needs forgetfulness as well as memory

~James Stephens

The duty of a lyrical poet is not to express or explain, it is to intensify life.

~James Stephens

I hear a sudden cry of pain! There is a rabbit in a snare.

~James Stephens

A woman is a branchy tree and man a singing wind; and from her branches carelessly he takes what he can find.

~James Stephens

Finality is death. Perfection is finality. Nothing is perfect. There are lumps in it.

~James Stephens

Women and birds are able to see without turning their heads, and that is indeed a necessary provision for they are both surrounded by enemies.

~James Stephens

I would think Until I found Something I can never find; - Something
Lying On the ground, In the bottom Of my mind.

~James Stephens

Men come of age at sixty, women at fifteen.

~James Stephens

It is by love alone that we understand anything

~James Stephens

You must be fit to give before you can be fit to receive.

~James Stephens

Tell me your past, my beloved, for a man is his past, and is to be known
by it.

~James Stephens

Because our lives are cowardly and sly, Because we do not dare to
take or give, Because we scowl and pass each other by, We do not
live; we do not dare to live.

~James Stephens

Is it not possible that the ultimate end is gaiety and music and a dance
of joy?

~James Stephens

My three-thousand mile walk through Ireland convinced me of one thing
- the possibility of organising a proper movement for the independence
of my native land.

~James Stephens

Can a spear divine the Eternal Will?

~James Stephens

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