

# Jean Genet Quotes

*Men, Flower, World, People, Betrayal, Body, Want, Evil, Solitude, Dream, Hate,  
Adventure, Beautiful, Night, Hands, Names, Made, Song, Order, Grief*

The pimp has a grin, never a smile.

~Jean Genet

Worse than not realizing the dreams of your youth, would be to have been young and never dreamed at all.

~Jean Genet

There is a close relationship between flowers and convicts. The fragility and delicacy of the former are of the same nature as the brutal insensitivity of the latter.

~Jean Genet

A man must dream a long time in order to act with grandeur, and dreaming is nursed in darkness.

~Jean Genet

Anyone who hasn't experienced the ecstasy of betrayal knows nothing about ecstasy at all.

~Jean Genet

I'm homosexual. How and why are idle questions. It's a little like wanting to know why my eyes are green.

~Jean Genet

It's the hour when night breaks away from the day, my dove, let me go.

~Jean Genet

My heart's in my hand, and my hand is pierced, and my hand's in the bag, and the bag is shut, and my heart is caught.

~Jean Genet

There are mornings when all men experience with fatigue a flush of tenderness that makes them horny.

~Jean Genet

Added to the moral solitude of the murderer comes the solitude of the artist, which can acknowledge no authority, save that of another artist.

~Jean Genet

Solitude, as I understand it, does not signify an unhappy state, but rather secret royalty, profound incommunicability yet a more or less obscure knowledge of an invulnerable singularity.

~Jean Genet

The time for reasoning is past; now's the time to get steamed up and fight like mad.

~Jean Genet

The main object of a revolution is the liberation of man... not the interpretation and application of some transcendental ideology.

~Jean Genet

Ah those knock-out body fluids: blood, sperm, tears!

~Jean Genet

Love makes use of the worst traps. The least noble. The rarest. It exploits coincidence.

~Jean Genet

A great wind swept over the ghetto, carrying away shame, invisibility and four centuries of humiliation. But when the wind dropped people saw it had been only a little breeze, friendly, almost gentle.

~Jean Genet

Would Hamlet have felt the delicious fascination of suicide if he hadn't had an audience, and lines to speak?

~Jean Genet

To achieve harmony in bad taste is the height of elegance.

~Jean Genet

There is a close relationship between flowers and convicts.

~Jean Genet

Anyone who knows a strange fact shares in its singularity.

~Jean Genet

By stretching language we'll distort it sufficiently to wrap ourselves in it and hide.

~Jean Genet

Every premeditated murder is always governed by a preparatory ceremonial and is always followed by a propitiatory ceremonial. The meaning of both eludes the murderers mind.

~Jean Genet

Repudiating the virtues of your world, criminals hopelessly agree to organize a forbidden universe. They agree to live in it. The air there is nauseating. They can breathe it.

~Jean Genet

Poetry is the break (or rather the meeting at the breaking point) between the visible and the invisible.

~Jean Genet

Creation is not a light-hearted game. The creator commits to a terrible adventure, which is to take up-on himself all of the dangers that his creatures run.

~Jean Genet

What we need is hatred. From it our ideas are born.

~Jean Genet

They spent their time doing nothing... they let intimacy fuse them.

~Jean Genet

I recognize in thieves, traitors and murderers, in the ruthless and the cunning, a deep beauty - a sunken beauty.

~Jean Genet

If we behave like those on the other side, then we are the other side. Instead of changing the world, all we'll achieve is a reflection of the one we want to destroy.

~Jean Genet

Anyone who's never experienced the pleasure of betrayal doesn't know what pleasure is.

~Jean Genet

When we see life, we call it beautiful. When we see death, we call it ugly. But it is more beautiful still to see oneself living at great speed, right up to the moment of death.

~Jean Genet

Men endowed with a wild imagination should have, in addition, the great poetic faculty of denying our universe and its values so that they may act upon it with sovereign ease.

~Jean Genet

Violence is a calm that disturbs you.

~Jean Genet

I give the name violence to a boldness lying idle and enamored of danger.

~Jean Genet

Power may be at the end of a gun, but sometimes it's also at the end of

the shadow or the image of a gun.

~Jean Genet

It's a true image, born of a false spectacle.

~Jean Genet

Crimes of which a people is ashamed constitute its real history. The same is true of man.

~Jean Genet

The fame of heroes owes little to the extent of their conquests and all to the success of the tributes paid to them.

~Jean Genet

Though they may not always be handsome men doomed to evil possess the manly virtues.

~Jean Genet

The vaporish cocaine loosens the contours of their lives and sets their bodies adrift, and so they are untouchable.

~Jean Genet

I could not take lightly the idea that people made love without me.

~Jean Genet

Betrayal is beautiful.

~Jean Genet

I decided to be what crime made of me.

~Jean Genet

I don't want to disappear.

~Jean Genet

The most reasonable man always manages, when he pulls the trigger, to become a dispenser of justice.

~Jean Genet

Prisons! Prisons! Prisons, dungeons, blessed places where evil is impossible since they are the crossroads of all the malediction in the world. One cannot commit evil in evil.

~Jean Genet

...beauty is the projection of ugliness and by developing certain monstrosities we obtain the purest ornaments.

~Jean Genet

on him, under him, with his mouth pressed to hers, he sang to her uncouth songs that moved through her body.

~Jean Genet

Slowly but surly I want to strip her of every kind of happiness as to make a saint of her.

~Jean Genet

First of all, don't mix your hairpins up with mine! You .... Oh! All right, mix your muck with mine. Mix it! Mix your rags with my tatters! Mix it all up.

~Jean Genet

One can hear all that's going on in the street. Which means that from the street one can hear what's going on in this house.

~Jean Genet

Limited by the world, which I oppose, jagged by it, I shall be all the more handsome and sparkling as the angles which wound me and give me shape are more acute and the jagging more cruel.

~Jean Genet

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- Hate Quotes
- Adventure Quotes
- Beautiful Quotes
- Night Quotes
- Hands Quotes
- Names Quotes
- Made Quotes
- Song Quotes
- Order Quotes
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