

Jean Rhys Quotes

*People, Thinking, Beautiful, Book, Long, Dream, Rooms, Hurt, Writing, Eye,
Dark, Real, Littles, Lasts, Sometimes, Children, Doe, Want, Knows, World*

Yes, I am sad, sad as a circus-lioness, sad as an eagle without wings, sad as a violin with only one string and that one broken, sad as a woman who is growing old. Sad, sad, sad.

~Jean Rhys

You can pretend for a long time, but one day it all falls away and you are alone. We are alone in the most beautiful place in the world.

~Jean Rhys

A room is, after all, a place where you hide from the wolves. That's all any room is.

~Jean Rhys

The feeling of Sunday is the same everywhere, heavy, melancholy, standing still.

~Jean Rhys

I am sad, sad as a circus-lioness.

~Jean Rhys

I am the only real truth I know.

~Jean Rhys

Now I no longer wish to be loved, beautiful, happy or successful. I want one thing and one thing only - to be left alone.

~Jean Rhys

I've been so ridiculous all my life that a little bit more or a little bit less hardly matters now.

~Jean Rhys

Love was a terrible thing. You poisoned it and stabbed at it and knocked it down into the mud - well down - and it got up and staggered on, bleeding and muddy and awful. Like - like Rasputin.

~Jean Rhys

We can't all be happy, we can't all be rich, we can't all be lucky - and it would be so much less fun if we were... There must be the dark background to show up the bright colours.

~Jean Rhys

Age seldom arrives smoothly or quickly. It's more often a succession of jerks.

~Jean Rhys

Today I must be very careful, today I have left my armor at home.

~Jean Rhys

I must write. If I stop writing my life will have been an abject failure. It is that already to other people. But it could be an abject failure to myself. I will not have earned death.

~Jean Rhys

No past to make us sentimental, no future to embarrass us...a difficult moment when you are out of practice - a moment that makes you go cold, cold and wary.

~Jean Rhys

He had discovered that people who allow themselves to be blown about by the winds of emotion and impulse are always unhappy people.

~Jean Rhys

Every word I say has chains round its ankles; every thought I think is weighted with heavy weights.

~Jean Rhys

Only the magic and the dream are true " all the rest's a lie.

~Jean Rhys

Have all beautiful things sad destinies?

~Jean Rhys

Of course she had some pathetic illusions about herself or she would not be able to go on living.

~Jean Rhys

...I know all about myself now, I know. You've told me so often. You haven't left me one rag of illusion to clothe myself in.

~Jean Rhys

A room? A nice room? A beautiful room? A beautiful room with bath? Swing high, swing low, swing to and fro...This happened and that happened... And then the days came and I was alone.

~Jean Rhys

Blot out the moon, Pull down the stars. Love in the dark, for we're for the dark So soon, so soon.

~Jean Rhys

Everything tender and melancholy - as life is sometimes, just for one moment.

~Jean Rhys

The last time you were happy about nothing; the first time you were afraid about nothing. Which came first?

~Jean Rhys

When I think about it, if I had to choose, I'd rather be happy than write.

~Jean Rhys

I often want to cry. That is the only advantage women have over men - at least they can cry.

~Jean Rhys

I am empty of everything. I am empty of everything but the thin, frail ghosts in my room.

~Jean Rhys

There is always the other side, always.

~Jean Rhys

The perpetual hunger to be beautiful and that thirst to be loved which is the real curse of Eve.

~Jean Rhys

Cold - cold as truth, cold as life. No, nothing can be as cold as life.

~Jean Rhys

And then the days came when I was alone.

~Jean Rhys

I didn't know, I didn't know, I didn't know.

~Jean Rhys

Something in her brain that still remained calm told her that she was doing a very foolish thing indeed.

~Jean Rhys

There are always two deaths, the real one and the one people know about.

~Jean Rhys

And what does anyone know about traitors, or why Judas did what he did?

~Jean Rhys

Sometimes the Earth trembles; sometimes you can feel it breathe.

~Jean Rhys

I want more of this feeling - fire and wings.

~Jean Rhys

Soon he'll come in again and kiss me, but differently. He'll be different and so I'll be different. It'll be different. I thought, 'It'll be different, different. It must be different.

~Jean Rhys

Next week, or next month, or next year I will kill myself. But I might as well last out my month's rent, which has been paid up.

~Jean Rhys

She had left me thirsty and all my life would be thirst and longing for what I had lost before I found it.

~Jean Rhys

But they never last, the golden days. And it can be sad, the sun in the afternoon, can't it? Yes, it can be sad, the afternoon sun, sad and frightening.

~Jean Rhys

If all good, respectable people had one face, I'd spit in it.

~Jean Rhys

I have arranged my little life.

~Jean Rhys

Life is curious when reduced to its essentials

~Jean Rhys

London is like a cold dark dream sometimes.

~Jean Rhys

Some must cry so that others may be able to laugh the more heartily.

Sacrifices are necessary.

~Jean Rhys

As it was in the beginning, ... is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

~Jean Rhys

I sit at my window and the words fly past me like birds â€” with God's help I catch some.

~Jean Rhys

Now at last I know why I was brought here and what I have to do.

~Jean Rhys

I have been here five days. I have decided on a place to eat in at midday, a place to eat in at night, a place to have my drink in after dinner. I have arranged my little life.

~Jean Rhys

It's funny, he said, have you ever thought that a girl's clothes cost more than the girl inside them?

~Jean Rhys

If I was bound for hell, let it be hell. No more false heaven. No more damned magic.

~Jean Rhys

I like shape very much. A novel has to have shape, and life doesn't have any.

~Jean Rhys

Something came out from my heart into my throat and then into my eyes.

~Jean Rhys

All of a writer that matters is in the book or books. It is idiotic to be curious about the person.

~Jean Rhys

One realized all sorts of things. The value of an illusion, for instance, and that the shadow can be more important than the substance. All sorts of things.

~Jean Rhys

Quite like old times,' the room says.

~Jean Rhys

She'll have no lover, for I don't want her and she'll see no other.

~Jean Rhys

It was the darkness that got you. It was heavy darkness, greasy and compelling. It made walls round you, and shut you in so that you felt like you could not breathe.

~Jean Rhys

I have tried," I said, "but he does not believe me. It is too late for that now" (it is always too late for truth, I thought).

~Jean Rhys

The musty smell, the bugs, the loneliness, this room, which is part of the street outside-this is all I want from life.

~Jean Rhys

Would you like a whiskey?' I say. 'I've got some.' (That's original. I bet nobody's ever thought of that way of bridging the gap before.)

~Jean Rhys

She haunted him, as an ungenerous action haunts one.

~Jean Rhys

Human beings are struggling, and so they are egoists. But it's wrong to say that they are wholly cruel - it's a deformed view.

~Jean Rhys

very few people change after well say seven or seventeen. Not really. They get more this or more that and of course look a bit different. But inside they are the same.

~Jean Rhys

before I could read, almost a baby, I imagined that God, this strange thing or person I heard about, was a book.

~Jean Rhys

The rumble of the life outside was like the sound of the sea which was rising gradually around her.

~Jean Rhys

The woman had a humble, cringing manner. Of course, she had discovered that, having neither money nor virtue, she had better be humble if she knew what was good for her.

~Jean Rhys

...morbidly, attracted him to strangeness, to recklessness, even unhappiness.

~Jean Rhys

It is strange how sad it can be - sunlight in the afternoon, don't you think?

~Jean Rhys

Even the one moment that you thought was your eternity fades out and is forgotten and dies.

~Jean Rhys

Not that she objected to solitude. Quite the contrary. She had books, thank Heaven, quantities of books. All sorts of books.

~Jean Rhys

What you take to be hypocrisy is sometimes a certain caution, sometimes genuine, though ponderous, childish, sometimes a mixture of both.

~Jean Rhys

that expression you get in your eyes when you are very tired and everything is like a dream and you are starting to know what things are like underneath what people say they are.

~Jean Rhys

They say when trouble comes close ranks, and so the white people did.

~Jean Rhys

I took the red dress down and put it against myself. 'Does it make me look intemperate and unchaste?' I said.

~Jean Rhys

There is no doubt that running away on a fresh, blue morning can be exhilarating.

~Jean Rhys

I found when I was a child that if I put the hurt into words, it would go.

~Jean Rhys

It's so easy to make a person who hasn't got anything seem wrong.

~Jean Rhys

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