

Jessamyn West Quotes

*Writing, People, Animal, Two, Inspirational, Women, Past, Children, Real, Want,
Memories, Hate, Enough, Men, Garden, Honest, Vegetables, Broken Heart,
Challenges, Baby*

A broken bone can heal, but the wound a word opens can fester forever.

~Jessamyn West

Talent is helpful in writing, but guts are absolutely necessary.

~Jessamyn West

Fiction reveals truths that reality obscures.

~Jessamyn West

A rattlesnake that doesn't bite teaches you nothing.

~Jessamyn West

It is very easy to forgive others their mistakes; it takes more grit and gumption to forgive them for having witnessed your own.

~Jessamyn West

A religious awakening which does not awaken the sleeper to love has roused him in vain.

~Jessamyn West

A taste for irony has kept more hearts from breaking than a sense of humor, for it takes irony to appreciate the joke which is on oneself.

~Jessamyn West

If you train people properly, they won't be able to tell a drill from the real thing. If anything, the real thing will be easier.

~Jessamyn West

People who keep journals have life twice

~Jessamyn West

Nothing is so dear as what you're about to leave.

~Jessamyn West

I've done more harm by the falseness of trying to please than by the honesty of trying to hurt.

~Jessamyn West

In my time and neighborhood (and in my soul) there was only one standard by which a woman measured success: did some man want her?

~Jessamyn West

Sleeplessness is a desert without vegetation or inhabitants.

~Jessamyn West

You make what seems a simple choice: choose a man or a job or a neighborhood- and what you have chosen is not a man or a job or a neighborhood, but a life.

~Jessamyn West

A good time for laughing is when you can.

~Jessamyn West

We can love an honest rogue, but what is more offensive than a false saint?

~Jessamyn West

The West is color. Its colors are animal rather than vegetable, the colors of earth and sunlight and ripeness.

~Jessamyn West

Teaching is the royal road to learning.

~Jessamyn West

The sick soon come to understand that they live in a different world from that of the well and that the two cannot communicate.

~Jessamyn West

I am always jumping into the sausage grinder and deciding, even before I'm half ground, that I don't want to be a sausage after all.

~Jessamyn West

The past is really almost as much a work of the imagination as the future.

~Jessamyn West

Memory is a magnet. It will pull to it and hold only material nature has designed it to attract.

~Jessamyn West

Writing is so difficult that I feel that writers, having had their hell on earth, will escape all punishment hereafter.

~Jessamyn West

There is no royal path to good writing; and such paths as exist do not lead through neat critical gardens, various as they are, but through the jungles of self, the world, and of craft.

~Jessamyn West

The conversation of two people remembering, if the memory is enjoyable to both, rocks on like music or lovemaking. There is a rhythm and a predictability to it that each anticipates and relishes.

~Jessamyn West

Each death and departure comes to us as a surprise, a sorrow never anticipated. Life is a long series of farewells; only the circumstances should surprise us.

~Jessamyn West

Somehow I have the feeling that in some book is the great treasure I've been looking for all my life.

~Jessamyn West

To meet at all, one must open ones eyes to another; and there is no true conversation no matter how many words are spoken, unless the eye, unveiled and listening, opens itself to the other.

~Jessamyn West

Faithfulness to the past can be a kind of death above ground. Writing of the past is a resurrection; the past then lives in your words and you are free.

~Jessamyn West

If you want a baby, have a new one. Don't baby the old one.

~Jessamyn West

Justice is a terrible but necessary thing.

~Jessamyn West

Some people are always thirsting for water from other people's wells.

~Jessamyn West

At fourteen you don't need sickness or death for tragedy.

~Jessamyn West

It is not easy to be solitary unless you are also born ruthless. Every solitary repudiates someone.

~Jessamyn West

The emotion, the ecstasy of love, we all want, but God spare us the responsibility.

~Jessamyn West

It is the loving, not the loved, woman who feels loveable.

~Jessamyn West

In their sympathies, children feel nearer animals than adults

~Jessamyn West

Only a fool would refuse to enter a fool's paradise when that's the only paradise he'll ever have a chance to enter.

~Jessamyn West

The source of one's joy is also often the source of one's sorrow.

~Jessamyn West

With enough libraries, all content is free.

~Jessamyn West

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