

# Joseph Epstein Quotes

*Envy, People, May, Reading, Giving, Thinking, Inspirational, Anti Semitism,  
Adrift, Writing, Running, Book, Dream, Two, Believe, Sin, Mail, Wine, Intelligent,  
Style*

Not to like ice cream is to show oneself uninterested in food.

~Joseph Epstein

What distinguishes us one from another is our dreams, and what we do to make them come about.

~Joseph Epstein

Of the seven deadly sins, only envy is no fun at all.

~Joseph Epstein

In recompense, envy may be the subtlest - perhaps I should say the most insidious - of the seven deadly sins.

~Joseph Epstein

The pleasure of jogging and running is rather like that of wearing a fur coat in Texas in August: the true joy comes in being able to take the damn thing off.

~Joseph Epstein

I myself think anti-Semitism is about envy.

~Joseph Epstein

I am not merely a habitual quoter but an incorrigible one. I am, I may as well face it, more quotatious than an old stock-market ticker-tape machine, except that you can't unplug me.

~Joseph Epstein

A cat is the only domestic animal I know who toilet trains itself and does a damned impressive job of it.

~Joseph Epstein

I just know so many people who have six or seven foreign languages and have read everything and have musical training and they are still dorks

~Joseph Epstein

That wine drinking is more effete than beer drinking? No question.

~Joseph Epstein

We use books like mirrors, gazing into them only to discover ourselves.

~Joseph Epstein

For me writing is foremost a mode of thinking and when it works well, an act of discovery

~Joseph Epstein

Courage is nine-tenths context. What is courageous in one setting can be foolhardy in another and even cowardly in a third.

~Joseph Epstein

No nostalgia runs deeper than that for something one has never known and now cannot obtain.

~Joseph Epstein

I know from the middle distance I give off the look of being prolific, which is a funny compliment to receive.

~Joseph Epstein

Within this realm of choicelessness, we do choose how we live.

~Joseph Epstein

I am basically a complainer and all the grounds for complaint have been swept out from under me.

~Joseph Epstein

I know how many days in which I have just answered e-mail, had three phone calls and a two hour lunch. Poof, gone. They are not infrequent.

~Joseph Epstein

The problem for me is that reading is, I won't say a sacred, but nevertheless a pretty serious act.

~Joseph Epstein

Envy is never general, but always very particular - at least envy of the kind one feels strongly.

~Joseph Epstein

I believe it was Gayelord Hauser, the nutritionist, who said, 'You are what you eat,' but if you happen to be an intellectual, you are what you quote.

~Joseph Epstein

A writer can get into a vast deal of trouble through misquotation. If you ever want to receive lots of mail, I recommend you get a Shakespeare quote wrong in a magazine or newspaper.

~Joseph Epstein

One of the pleasures of being a Jew, I don't have to tell you, it allows you anti-Semitism.

~Joseph Epstein

The decisive moment in the defeat of upper class, capital-S, Society may have come when, in newspapers all over the nation, what used to be call the Society page was replaced by the Style section.

~Joseph Epstein

Someone â€” Cyril Connolly? Ezra Pound? â€” once said that anything that can be read twice is literature; I would say that anything that bears saying twice is quotable.

~Joseph Epstein

One serious drawback about letters is that, in order to get them, one must send some out. When it comes to the mail, I feel it is better to

receive than to give.

~Joseph Epstein

The best joke-tellers are those who have the patience to wait for conversation to come around to the point where the jokes in their repertoire have application.

~Joseph Epstein

We do choose how we shall live

~Joseph Epstein

Always seek the general and never quite trust it.

~Joseph Epstein

I think the story is my form.

~Joseph Epstein

No one has really ever defined what a friend is.

~Joseph Epstein

If geniuses can sometimes make mistakes, cannot the rest of us on occasion be geniuses?

~Joseph Epstein

We who are quotatious are never truly alone, but always hear the cheerful flow of remarks made by dead writers so much more intelligent than we.

~Joseph Epstein

I should prefer to die laughing, and, on more than one occasion, thought I might.

~Joseph Epstein

I know how deeply slothful I am.

~Joseph Epstein

My wife who is non-Jewish regrets it all the time that I can say these terrible things about fellow Jews and she can't.

~Joseph Epstein

By the way, the secret of speaking French is confidence. Whether you are right or wrong, you don't hesitate.

~Joseph Epstein

I am the heterosexual Truman Capote.

~Joseph Epstein

Food has it over sex for variety. Hedonistically, gustatory possibilities are much broader than copulatory ones.

~Joseph Epstein

I am married to someone I love.

~Joseph Epstein

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