

# Joseph Heller Quotes

*Men, People, War, Crazy, Thinking, Writing, Catch 22 Important, Military, Way,  
Mean, Night, Country, Might, Funny, World, Long, Children, Trying, Differences,  
Ideas*

I want to keep my dreams, even bad ones, because without them, I might have nothing all night long.

~Joseph Heller

where are the snowdens of yesteryear?

~Joseph Heller

When I grow up I want to be a little boy.

~Joseph Heller

The country was in peril; he was jeopardizing his traditional rights of freedom and independence by daring to exercise them.

~Joseph Heller

Every writer I know has trouble writing.

~Joseph Heller

[They] agreed that it was neither possible nor necessary to educate people who never questioned anything.

~Joseph Heller

Peace on earth would mean the end of civilization as we know it.

~Joseph Heller

You know, that might be the answer - to act boastfully about something we ought to be ashamed of. That's a trick that never seems to fail.

~Joseph Heller

He was a self-made man who owed his lack of success to nobody.

~Joseph Heller

But how can one be warm alone?

~Joseph Heller

The Texan turned out to be good-natured, generous and likable. In three days no one could stand him.

~Joseph Heller

In the long run, failure was the only thing that worked predictably. All else was accidental.

~Joseph Heller

The enemy is anybody who's going to get you killed, no matter which side he's on.

~Joseph Heller

...[A]nything worth dying for ... is certainly worth living for.

~Joseph Heller

Destiny is a good thing to accept when it's going your way. When it isn't, don't call it destiny; call it injustice, treachery, or simple bad luck.

~Joseph Heller

Insanity is contagious.

~Joseph Heller

They can do anything we can't stop them from doing.

~Joseph Heller

Everyone in my book accuses everyone else of being crazy. Frankly, I think the whole society is nuts - and the question is: What does a sane man do in an insane society?

~Joseph Heller

There was no telling what people might find out once they felt free to ask whatever questions they wanted to.

~Joseph Heller

It is the anonymous "they," the enigmatic "they" who are in charge. Who is "they"? I don't know. Nobody knows. Not even "they" themselves.

~Joseph Heller

He had decided to live forever or die in the attempt.

~Joseph Heller

I'm not running away from my responsibilities. I'm running to them. There's nothing negative about running away to save my life.

~Joseph Heller

I'd like to see the government get out of war altogether and leave the whole field to private individuals.

~Joseph Heller

The night was full of horrors, and he thought he knew how Christ must have felt as he walked through the world, like a psychiatrist through a ward full of nuts.

~Joseph Heller

Hungry Joe collected lists of fatal diseases and arranged them in alphabetical order so that he could put his finger without delay on any one he wanted to worry about.

~Joseph Heller

She was the epitome of stately sorrow each time she smiled.

~Joseph Heller

The question is: what is a sane man to do in an insane society?

~Joseph Heller

From men motivated by moral certitude, history teaches, no lasting good ever comes.

~Joseph Heller

You have no respect for excessive authority or obsolete traditions. You're dangerous and depraved, and you ought to be taken outside and shot!

~Joseph Heller

There is no disappointment so numbing...as someone no better than you achieving more.

~Joseph Heller

Some people are born mediocre, some people achieve mediocrity, and some people have mediocrity thrust upon them.

~Joseph Heller

I think that maybe in every company today there is always at least one person who is going crazy slowly.

~Joseph Heller

Let's take a drive into the middle of nowhere with a packet of Marlboro lights and talk about our lives.

~Joseph Heller

He knew everything about literature except how to enjoy it.

~Joseph Heller

All through the night, men looked at the sky and were saddened by the stars.

~Joseph Heller

I think in every country that there is at least one executive who is scared of going crazy.

~Joseph Heller

“ Oh, I’m not complaining. I know there’s a war on. I know a lot of people are going to have to suffer for us to win it. But why must I be one of them?”

~Joseph Heller

When I read something saying I've not done anything as good as 'Catch-22' I'm tempted to reply, 'Who has?'

~Joseph Heller

I could not write about a subject sacred to me because I would be too flippant. Fortunately, there are no subjects sacred to me.

~Joseph Heller

Major Major never sees anyone in his office while he's in his office.

~Joseph Heller

In short, Clevinger was one of those people with lots of intelligence and no brains, and everyone knew it except those who soon found it out.

~Joseph Heller

But that was war. Just about all he could find in its favor was that it paid well and liberated children from the pernicious influence of their parents.

~Joseph Heller

The Lord gave us farmers two strong hands so we could grab as much as we could with both of them.

~Joseph Heller

I couldn't see much point in tying myself down to a middle-aged woman with four children, even though the woman was my wife and the children were my own.

~Joseph Heller

... there is wisdom in madness and strong probability of truth in all accusations, for people are complete, and everyone is capable of everything.

~Joseph Heller

Where were you born?" "On a battlefield," [Yossarian] answered. "No, no. In what state were you born?" "In a state of innocence.

~Joseph Heller

I can't start writing until I have a closing line.

~Joseph Heller

We do have a zeal for laughter in most situations, give or take a dentist.

~Joseph Heller

There was only one catch and that was catch 22

~Joseph Heller

Be glad you're even alive.' Be furious you're going to die.

~Joseph Heller

I had examined myself pretty thoroughly and discovered that I was unfit for military service.

~Joseph Heller

The captain was a good chess player, and the games were always interesting. Yossarian had stopped playing chess with him because the games were so interesting they were foolish.

~Joseph Heller

That's some catch, that Catch-22," he observed. It's the best there is," Doc Daneeka agreed.

~Joseph Heller

When I look up, I see people cashing in. I don't see heaven or saints or angels. I see people cashing in on every decent impulse and every human tragedy.

~Joseph Heller

Rise above principal and do what's right.

~Joseph Heller

Well then I'd certainly be a damned fool to feel any other way, wouldn't I?

~Joseph Heller

I wouldn't want to live without strong misgivings.

~Joseph Heller

The laws of nature are only as immutable as the minds which promote them. Ignorance of the law is 9/10ths of the law. Just because you aren't paranoid doesn't mean they aren't out to get you.

~Joseph Heller

But the God I don't believe in is a good God, a just God, a merciful God. He's not the mean and stupid God you make him out to be.

~Joseph Heller

Fortunately, just when things were blackest, the war broke out.

~Joseph Heller

Nurse Duckett found Yossarian wonderful and was already trying to change him.

~Joseph Heller

They couldn't keep Death out, but while she was in she had to act like a lady.

~Joseph Heller



When you consider the opportunity and power He had to really do a job, and then look at the stupid, ugly little mess He made of it instead, His sheer incompetence is almost staggering.

~Joseph Heller

It doesn't make a damned bit of difference who wins the war to someone who's dead.

~Joseph Heller

And anything worth dying for

~Joseph Heller

Clevinger had a mind, and Lieutenant Scheisskopf had noticed that people with minds tended to get pretty smart at times.

~Joseph Heller

What do you do when it rains?" The captain answered frankly. "I get wet.

~Joseph Heller

Nately had a bad start. He came from a good family.

~Joseph Heller

I'm gonna live forever, or die trying.

~Joseph Heller

For war there is always enough. It's peace that's expensive.

~Joseph Heller

I don't understand the process of imagination-though I know that I am very much at its mercy.

~Joseph Heller

A man's head is his castle.

~Joseph Heller

The smartest people in Washington are the political reporters. They write about their inferiors.

~Joseph Heller

Gold was not altogether certain what, anatomically, a gorge was, but he knew that his was rising.

~Joseph Heller

I don't think the 'what' distinguishes a good novel from a bad one but rather the 'how.'

~Joseph Heller

I think that maybe inside any business, there is someone slowly going crazy

~Joseph Heller

Erogenous zones are either everywhere or nowhere.

~Joseph Heller

Men went mad and were rewarded with medals.

~Joseph Heller

I write longhand and I type and I rewrite on the typed pages.

~Joseph Heller

mankind is resilient: the atrocities that horrified us a week ago become acceptable tomorrow.

~Joseph Heller

Everything passes. (That's what makes it endurable.)

~Joseph Heller

Remember that everyone deserves some fun during working hours.

~Joseph Heller

All of our religions but the Judaic and the Greek think more of us dead than alive.

~Joseph Heller

The promises of maniacs, like those of women, are not safely relied upon.

~Joseph Heller

If character is destiny, the good are damned.

~Joseph Heller

Death to all modifiers, he declared one day, and out of every letter that passed through his hands went every adverb and every adjective.

~Joseph Heller

Now you've given them hope, and they're unhappy. So the blame is all yours.

~Joseph Heller

If Richard Nixon was second-rate, what in the world is third-rate?

~Joseph Heller

I never even realized I was Jewish until I was practically grown up. Or rather, I used to feel that everybody in the world was Jewish, which amounts to the same thing.

~Joseph Heller

Something did happen to me somewhere that robbed me of confidence and courage and left me with a fear of discovery and change and a positive dread of everything unknown that may occur.

~Joseph Heller

There are yawning gulfs into which large chunks of me have fallen. I do not always know where I am at present.

~Joseph Heller

I am miracle ingredient Z-247. I'm immense. I'm a real, slam-bang, honest-to-goodness, three-fisted humdinger. I'm a bona fide supraman.

~Joseph Heller

Why are they going to disappear him?' I don't know.' It doesn't make sense. It isn't even good grammar.

~Joseph Heller

Maybe a long life does have to be filled with many unpleasant conditions if it's to seem long. But in that event, who wants one?

~Joseph Heller

Well, he died. You don't get any older than that.

~Joseph Heller

He was never without misery, and never without hope.

~Joseph Heller

If a man is going to leave one wife to marry another, it's better if he divorces the first before he marries the second.

~Joseph Heller

You're an intelligent person of great moral character who has taken a very courageous stand. I'm an intelligent person with no moral character at all, so I'm in an ideal position to appreciate it.

~Joseph Heller

Men," he began his address to the officers, measuring his pauses carefully. "You're American officers. The officers of no other army in the

world can make that statement. Think about it.

~Joseph Heller

He was sick with lust and mesmerized with regret

~Joseph Heller

**Related Links:**

- Men Quotes
- People Quotes
- War Quotes
- Crazy Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Catch 22 Important Quotes
- Military Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Night Quotes
- Country Quotes
- Might Quotes
- Funny Quotes
- World Quotes
- Long Quotes
- Children Quotes
- Trying Quotes
- Differences Quotes
- Ideas Quotes