

Katherine Anne Porter

Quotes

Writing, People, Believe, Men, Art, World, Thinking, Children, Real, Needs, Ideas, Two, Country, Style, Years, Giving, Feelings, Heart, Government, Fate

The past is never where you think you left it.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Love must be learned and learned again; There is no end.

~Katherine Anne Porter

You waste life when you waste good food.

~Katherine Anne Porter

You shouldn't side-step suffering if you have to go through it to get where you're going.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Trust your happiness and the richness of your life at this moment. It is as true and as much yours as anything else that ever happened to you.

~Katherine Anne Porter

The real sin against life is to abuse and destroy beauty, even one's own even more, one's own, for that has been put in our care and we are responsible for its well-being.

~Katherine Anne Porter

What we need now is endless courage.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Each generation must get on the same old merry-go-round, only disguised in a fresh coat of paint.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I shall try to tell the truth, but the result will be fiction.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I get so tired of moral bookkeeping.

~Katherine Anne Porter

It's a man's world, and you men can have it.

~Katherine Anne Porter

It is such a relief to be told the truth.

~Katherine Anne Porter

A story is like something you wind out of yourself. Like a spider, it is a web you weave, and you love your story like a child.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Childhood is the fiery furnace in which we are melted down to essentials and that essential shaped for good.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Love must be learned again and again... Hate needs no instruction, but waits only to be provoked.

~Katherine Anne Porter

No man can be explained by his personal history, least of all a poet.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Those who give the orders are not the ones to die The people who are doing the work and the fighting and the dying, and those who are doing the talking, are not all the same people.

~Katherine Anne Porter

The real sin against life is to abuse and destroy beauty, even one's own.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Could she fall so low? No, there were limits, and she believed she still knew where some of them were.

~Katherine Anne Porter

God does not know whether a skin is black or white, He sees only souls.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Be respectful of words. They mean something.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Miracles are instantaneous, they cannot be summoned, but come of themselves, usually at unlikely moments and to those who least expect them.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Physical infidelity is the signal, the notice given, that all fidelities are undermined.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Lovemaking surely must be, for human beings at our present state of development, one of the more private enterprises. Who would want a witness to that entire self-abandonment and helplessness?

~Katherine Anne Porter

Every young artist has to do it one way, his [or her] way, and the hell with patterns. Remember who you are and where you are and what you are doing.... And never take advice, including this.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Freedom is a dangerous intoxicant and very few people can tolerate it in any quantity.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Two-thirds of my energies go in trying to save one-third for work.

~Katherine Anne Porter

. . . all that she had had, and all that she had missed, were lost

together, and were twice lost in this landslide of remembered losses.

~Katherine Anne Porter

They had both noticed that a life of dissipation sometimes gave to a face the look of gaunt suffering spirituality that a life of asceticism was supposed to give and quite often did not.

~Katherine Anne Porter

There are so many things that we are capable of, that we could be or do. The potentialities are so great that we never, any of us, are more than one-fourth fulfilled.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Defeat in this world is no disgrace and that is what they cannot understand. If you really fought well and fought for the right thing.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Nothing is mine, I have only nothing but it is enough, it is beautiful and it is all mine. Do I even walk about in my own skin or is it something I have borrowed to spare my modesty?

~Katherine Anne Porter

Most people won't realise that writing is a craft. You have to take your apprenticeship in it like anything else.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Your mind outwears all sorts of things you may set your heart upon; you can enjoy it when all other things are taken away.

~Katherine Anne Porter

We do not run from the troubles and dangers that are truly ours, and it is better to learn what they are earlier than later, and if we don't run from the others, we are fools.

~Katherine Anne Porter

But the great leveler, Death: not even the gods can defend a man, not even one they love, that day when fate takes hold and lays him out at last.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I was right not to be afraid of any thief but myself, who will end by leaving me nothing.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Evil is dull, that is the worst of it.

~Katherine Anne Porter

First impressions are often signals from the deep that we should credit oftener than we do.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I've been called a stylist until I really could tear my hair out. And I simply don't believe in style. The style is you.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I want to go and see the world. I want to know the world like the palm of my hand.

~Katherine Anne Porter

A novel is really like a symphony where instrument after instrument has to come in at its own time, and no other.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I have not much interest in anyone's personal history after the tenth year, not even my own. Whatever one was going to be was all prepared before that.

~Katherine Anne Porter

If you are required to kill someone today, on the promise of a political

leader that someone else shall live in peace tomorrow, believe me, you are not only a double murderer, you are a suicide, too.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I will never again attempt to tell any young person what to do - the really gifted don't need advice and the others can't take it.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Love is purely a creation of the human imagination, it is merely perhaps the most important of all the examples of how the imagination continually outruns the creature it inhabits.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Writing does not exclude the full life; it demands it.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Religion put claws on Aunt Sally and gave her a post to whet them on.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Be bold, and try not to fall in love with your faults. Don't be so afraid of giving yourself away, either, for if you write, you must. And if you can't face that, better not write.

~Katherine Anne Porter

The greatest art comes out of warmth and conviction and deep feeling, but then, very few people, even geniuses, have all that.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I love to praise what I love, and I won't for a minute believe that love is blind -- indeed, it gives clearness without sharpness, and surely that is the best light in which to look at anything.

~Katherine Anne Porter

who wants to read about success? It is the early struggle which makes

a good story.

~Katherine Anne Porter

One of the marks of a gift is to have the courage of it.

~Katherine Anne Porter

We are born knowing death.

~Katherine Anne Porter

All the old houses that I knew when I was a child were full of books, bought generation after generation by members of the family. Nobody told you to read this or not to read that.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I'm not afraid of life and I'm not afraid of death: Dying's the bore.

~Katherine Anne Porter

We pity people too often for the wrong reasons.

~Katherine Anne Porter

What we need is endless courage.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I specialize in what the French call la petite histoire. I am interested in the individual thumbprint.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Death cancels our engagements, but it does not affect the consequences of our acts in life.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Now and again thousands of memories converge, harmonize, arrange themselves around a central idea in a coherent form, and I write a story.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I do not understand the world, but I watch it's progress.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Death is loneliness in its purest form.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Freedom, remember, is not the same as liberty.

~Katherine Anne Porter

You do not create a style. You work, and develop yourself; your style is an emanation from your own being.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I look upon literature as an art, and I believe that if you misuse it or abuse it, it will leave you. It is not a thing that you can nail down and use as you want. You have to let it use you, too.

~Katherine Anne Porter

The nose is surely one of the most impressionable, if not positively erotic, of all our unruly members.

~Katherine Anne Porter

With the most infinite tenderness I have ever known in my life, he put his arms around me, gently, gently, and I embraced him around the neck, and we touched.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Eventually women will learn there's no such thing as freedom. Their husbands are just as fastened to the deck as they are. Men get onto a treadmill and never got off.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I always write a story in one sitting.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I work whenever I'm let.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I think joy is just as instructive as pain, and I like it better. I never meant to suffer any more than I could help; my nature was meant for happiness, a daylight art and living.

~Katherine Anne Porter

It is as hard to find a neutral critic as it is a neutral country in time of war. I suppose if a critic were neutral, he wouldn't trouble to write anything.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I think I've only spent about ten percent of my energies on writing. The other ninety percent went to keeping my head above water.

~Katherine Anne Porter

There are only a few bits of absolute knowledge in the world, people can learn only one or two fundamental facts about each other, the rest is decoration and prejudice.

~Katherine Anne Porter

words can never get at the truth.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Mexican writer and diplomat, "Pasado en claro" ("A Draft of Shadows")
You learn something the day you die. You learn how to die.

~Katherine Anne Porter

The human heart is not yet so corroded that it can read off the extinction of these two men without a shock to the very roots of its

belief in justice and humanity.

~Katherine Anne Porter

All working, practical political systems, even those professing to originate in moral grandeur, are based upon and operate by contempt of human life and the individual fate.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I can pray better when I'm comfortable.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Death always leaves one singer to mourn.

~Katherine Anne Porter

[Marriage] is the merciless revealer, the great white searchlight turned on the darkest places of human nature.

~Katherine Anne Porter

I want to live in a world capital or the howling wilderness.

~Katherine Anne Porter

we know that the Furies do not come uninvited.

~Katherine Anne Porter

There is no such thing as an exact synonym and no such thing as an unmixed motive.

~Katherine Anne Porter

You are right, none of us live enough, and sometimes I think it is because we mistake hurrah and hullabaloo for experience, we get a sock in the eye and think it is a broken heart.

~Katherine Anne Porter

In the arts, you simply cannot secure your bread and your freedom of

action too. You cannot be a hostile critic of society and expect society to feed you regularly.

~Katherine Anne Porter

Life is a game of piquet played in a bramble bush in very bad weather.

~Katherine Anne Porter

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