

# Louis Auchincloss

## Quotes

*Writing, Men, Character, Thinking, School, Country, Mean, Ideas, Littles,  
Religious, Children, Enough, Real, Art, People, Fire, Crowds, Reading, Rich,  
Plot*

Keep doing good deeds long enough, and you'll probably turn out a good man in spite of yourself.

~Louis Auchincloss

I don't give a damn what people think.

~Louis Auchincloss

A neurotic can perfectly well be a literary genius, but his greatest danger is always that he will not recognize when he is dull.

~Louis Auchincloss

We were not as rich as the Rockefellers or Mellons, but we were rich enough to know how rich they were.

~Louis Auchincloss

Only little boys and old men sneer at love.

~Louis Auchincloss

A man can spend his whole existence never learning the simple lesson that he has only one life and that if he fails to do what he wants with it, nobody else really cares.

~Louis Auchincloss

There is a charm, even for homely things, in perfect maintenance.

~Louis Auchincloss

The only thing that keeps a man going is energy. And what is energy but liking life?

~Louis Auchincloss

Great lovers have made great sacrifices.

~Louis Auchincloss

Perfection irritates as well as it attracts, in fiction as in life.

~Louis Auchincloss

Once somebody's aware of a plot, it's like a bone sticking out. If it breaks through the skin, it's very ugly.

~Louis Auchincloss

A common objection to inherited wealth is that it stifles the urge to work. I have not generally observed this to be true.

~Louis Auchincloss

It's very rare that a character comes to mind complete in himself. He needs additional traits that I often pick from actual people. One way you can cover your tracks is to change the sex.

~Louis Auchincloss

Decent artists go through bad times but eventually they do get recognized. It's by no means a battle lost. Yet.

~Louis Auchincloss

The crowd has a way of being right.

~Louis Auchincloss

Frederick Buechner can find grace and redemption even in the shoddiest, phoniest aspects of a cultural wasteland. One reads *Lion Country*...with hope and delight.

~Louis Auchincloss

I couldn't bear to see a chapter of the gospel turned into a chapter of Trollope.

~Louis Auchincloss

There's no real alternative to what there is.

~Louis Auchincloss

Buechner is a worthy member of the great prose stylists: Pascal, Newman, and Merton, who have harnessed their art to a passionate religious faith.

~Louis Auchincloss

Novels must have verisimilitude, and truth has little enough of that.

~Louis Auchincloss

If you can sense the corruption in me, it is ... because there's a dose of it in you.

~Louis Auchincloss

Society matters not so much. Words are everything.

~Louis Auchincloss

Your literary style reflects your personality.

~Louis Auchincloss

I think Shakespeare got drunk after he finished King Lear. That he had a ball writing it.

~Louis Auchincloss

Maybe when I'm dead, I'll be forgiven, but I'm afraid I'll also be forgotten.

~Louis Auchincloss

Today is not forever.

~Louis Auchincloss

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