

M. F. K. Fisher

Quotes

Food, Men, Cooking, Thinking, Years, People, Writing, Oysters, War, Two, Meals, Wine, Believe, Sex, Self, Yoga, Tired, Eating, Heart, Art

Sharing food with another human being is an intimate act that should not be indulged in lightly.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Wine and cheese are ageless companions, like aspirin and aches, or June and moon, or good people and noble ventures.

~M. F. K. Fisher

The smell of good bread baking, like the sound of lightly flowing water, is indescribable in its evocation of innocence and delight

~M. F. K. Fisher

You may feel that you have eaten too much...But this pastry is like feathers - it is like snow. It is in fact good for you, a digestive!

~M. F. K. Fisher

Family dinners are more often than not an ordeal of nervous indigestion, preceded by hidden resentment and ennui and accompanied by psychosomatic jitters.

~M. F. K. Fisher

No yoga exercise, no meditation in a chapel filled with music will rid you of your blues better than the humble task of making your own bread.

~M. F. K. Fisher

since we must eat to live, we might as well do it with both grace and gusto.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Sharing our meals should be a joyful and a trustful act, rather than the cursory fulfillment of our social obligations.

~M. F. K. Fisher

A well-made Martini or Gibson, correctly chilled and nicely served, has

been more often my true friend than any two-legged creature.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Most bereaved souls crave nourishment more tangible than prayers: they want a steak.

~M. F. K. Fisher

There is no chiropractic treatment, no Yoga exercise, no hour of meditation in a music-throbbing chapel, that will leave you emptier of bad thoughts than this homely ceremony of making bread.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Almost every person has something secret he likes to eat.

~M. F. K. Fisher

One martini is just right. Two martinis are too many. Three martinis are never enough.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Central heating, French rubber goods and cookbooks are three amazing proofs of man's ingenuity in transforming necessity into art, and, of these, cookbooks are perhaps most lastingly delightful.

~M. F. K. Fisher

A writing cook and a cooking writer must be bold at the desk as well as the stove.

~M. F. K. Fisher

It is all a question of weeding out what you yourself like best to do, so that you can live most agreeably in a world full of an increasing number of disagreeable surprises.

~M. F. K. Fisher

If time, so fleeting, must like humans die, let it be filled with good food

and good talk, and then embalmed in the perfumes of conviviality.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Probably one of the most private things in the world is an egg until it is broken.

~M. F. K. Fisher

It seems to me that our three basic needs, for food and security and love, are so mixed and mingled and entwined that we cannot straightly think of one without the others.

~M. F. K. Fisher

In America we eat, collectively, with a glum urge for food to fill us. We are ignorant of flavour. We are as a nation taste-blind.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Cheese has always been a food that both sophisticated and simple humans love.

~M. F. K. Fisher

...for me there is too little of life to spend most of it forcing myself into detachment from it.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Having bowed to the inevitability of the dictum that we must eat to live, we should ignore it and live to eat.

~M. F. K. Fisher

When I write of hunger, I am really writing about love and the hunger for it, and warmth and the love of it and it is all one.

~M. F. K. Fisher

When we exist without thought or thanksgiving we are not men, but beasts.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Hunger is more than a problem of belly and guts, and ... the satisfying of it can and must and does nourish the spirit as well as the body.

~M. F. K. Fisher

An oyster leads a dreadful but exciting life.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Salad is roughage and a French idea.

~M. F. K. Fisher

It is impossible to think of any good meal, no matter how plain or elegant, without soup or bread in it

~M. F. K. Fisher

A complete lack of caution is perhaps one of the true signs of a real gourmet.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Digestion is one of the most delicately balanced of all human and perhaps angelic functions.

~M. F. K. Fisher

A pleasant aperitif, as well as a good chaser for a short quick whiskey, as well again for a fine supper drink, is beer.

~M. F. K. Fisher

gastronomy is and always has been connected with its sister art of love.

~M. F. K. Fisher

When shall we live if not now?

~M. F. K. Fisher

Probably no strychnine has sent as many husbands into their graves as mealtime scolding has, and nothing has driven more men into the arms of other women as the sound of a shrill whine at table.

~M. F. K. Fisher

In general, I think, human beings are happiest at table when they are very young, very much in love or very alone.

~M. F. K. Fisher

... I think we grieve forever, but that goes for love too, fortunately for us all.

~M. F. K. Fisher

There's a communion of more than our bodies when bread is broken and wine drunk.

~M. F. K. Fisher

There is a communication of more than our bodies when bread is broken and wine is drunk. And that is my answer when people ask me: Why do you write about hunger, and not wars or love.

~M. F. K. Fisher

For me, a plain baked potato is the most delicious one....It is soothing and enough.

~M. F. K. Fisher

There is a mistaken idea, ancient but still with us, that an overdose of anything from fornication to hot chocolate will teach restraint by the very results of its abuse.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Write one good clean sentence and put a period at the end of it. Then write another one.

~M. F. K. Fisher

War is a beastly business, it is true, but one proof we are human is our ability to learn, even from it, how better to exist

~M. F. K. Fisher

Painting, it is true, was undergoing a series of -isms reminiscent of the whims of a pregnant woman.

~M. F. K. Fisher

At present, I myself do not know of any local witches or warlocks, but there are several people who seem to have an uncanny power over food.

~M. F. K. Fisher

But if I must be alone, I refuse to be alone as if it were something weak and distasteful, like convalescence.

~M. F. K. Fisher

When a man is small, he loves and hates food with a ferocity which soon dims. At six years old his very bowels will heave when such a dish as creamed carrots or cold tapioca appear before him.

~M. F. K. Fisher

... there can be no more shameless carelessness than with the food we eat for life itself.

~M. F. K. Fisher

The things men come to eat when they are alone are, I suppose, not much stranger than the men themselves.... A writer years ago told me of living for five months on hen mash.

~M. F. K. Fisher

At its best, [Japanese cooking] is inextricably meshed with aesthetics, with religion, with tradition and history. It is evocative of seasonal changes, or of one's childhood, or of a storm at sea.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Good wine, well drunk, can lend majesty to the human spirit.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Life is hard, we say. An oyster's life is worse. She lives motionless, soundless, her own cold ugly shape her only dissipation.

~M. F. K. Fisher

I wrote like a junkie. I had to have my daily fix.

~M. F. K. Fisher

On the other hand, a flaccid, moping, debauched mollusc, tired from too much love and loose-nerved from general world conditions, can be a shameful thing served raw upon the shell.

~M. F. K. Fisher

For anyone addicted to reading commonplace books . . . finding a good new one is much like enduring a familiar recurrence of malaria, with fever, fits of shaking, strange dreams

~M. F. K. Fisher

I wrote from the time I was four. It was my way of screaming and yelling, the primal scream. I wrote like a junkie, I had to have my daily fix.

~M. F. K. Fisher

I cannot count the good people I know who to my mind would be even better if they bent their spirits to the study of their own hungers.

~M. F. K. Fisher

old age is more bearable if it can be helped by an early acceptance of being loved and of loving.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Cooks must feed their egos as well as their customers.

~M. F. K. Fisher

France eats more conciously, more intelligently, than any other nation.

~M. F. K. Fisher

[Bachelors'] approach to gastronomy is basically sexual, since few of them under seventy-nine will bother to produce a good meal unless it is for a pretty woman.

~M. F. K. Fisher

I live with carpe diem engraved on my heart.

~M. F. K. Fisher

I like old people when they have aged well.

~M. F. K. Fisher

A potato is a poor thing, poorly treated. More often than not it is cooked in so unthinking and ignorant a manner as to make one feel that it has never before been encountered in the kitchen.

~M. F. K. Fisher

It is hard and perhaps impossible for many people to recognize the difference between innocence and naiveté.

~M. F. K. Fisher

I honestly believe that everything I know about the writing of non-fiction (or writing) could be engraved on the head of a pin with a garden hoe.

~M. F. K. Fisher

... living out of sight of any shore does rich and powerfully strange things to humans.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Children and old people and the parents in between should be able to live together, in order to learn how to die with grace, together. And I fear that this is purely utopian fantasy.

~M. F. K. Fisher

It must not simply be taken for granted that a given set of ill-assorted people, for no other reason than because it is Christmas, will be joyful to be reunited and to break bread together.

~M. F. K. Fisher

Dictionaries are always fun, but not always reassuring.

~M. F. K. Fisher

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