

Max Beerbohm

Quotes

*Men, Laughter, People, Inspirational, Art, Kind, Eye, Work, Thinking, Character,
Doe, Two, Mean, Genius, Guests, Life, Needs, Dream, Humility, Boys*

People who insist on telling their dreams are among the terrors of the breakfast table.

~Max Beerbohm

Some people are born to lift heavy weights, some are born to juggle golden balls.

~Max Beerbohm

To give and then not feel that one has given is the very best of all ways of giving.

~Max Beerbohm

When hospitality becomes an art it loses its very soul.

~Max Beerbohm

The Non-Conformist Conscience makes cowards of us all.

~Max Beerbohm

No fine work can be done without concentration and self-sacrifice and toil and doubt.

~Max Beerbohm

I was a modest, good-humoured boy. It is Oxford that has made me insufferable.

~Max Beerbohm

Only mediocrity can be trusted to be always at its best. Genius must always have lapses proportionate to its triumphs.

~Max Beerbohm

I need no dictionary of quotations to remind me that the eyes are the windows of the soul.

~Max Beerbohm

Undergraduates owe their happiness chiefly to the consciousness that they are no longer at school. The nonsense which was knocked out of them at school is all put gently back at Oxford or Cambridge.

~Max Beerbohm

The one real goal of education is to leave a person asking questions.

~Max Beerbohm

People are either born hosts or born guests.

~Max Beerbohm

To say that a man is vain means merely that he is pleased with the effect he produces on other people.

~Max Beerbohm

Only the insane take themselves seriously.

~Max Beerbohm

We must stop talking about the American dream and start listening to the dreams of Americans.

~Max Beerbohm

History does not repeat itself. The historians repeat one another.

~Max Beerbohm

Heroes are very human, most of them; very easily touched by praise.

~Max Beerbohm

Nobody ever died of laughter.

~Max Beerbohm

There is much to be said for failure. It is more interesting than success.

~Max Beerbohm

Incongruity is the mainspring of laughter.

~Max Beerbohm

Of all the objects of hatred, a woman once loved is the most hateful.

~Max Beerbohm

It distresses me, this failure to keep pace with the leaders of thought, as they pass into oblivion.

~Max Beerbohm

Death cancels all engagements.

~Max Beerbohm

All fantasy should have a solid base in reality.

~Max Beerbohm

A hundred eyes were fixed on her, and half as many hearts lost to her.

~Max Beerbohm

One might well say that mankind is divisible into two great classes: hosts and guests.

~Max Beerbohm

It seems to be a law of nature that no man, unless he has some obvious physical deformity, ever is loth to sit for his portrait.

~Max Beerbohm

True dandyism is the result of an artistic temperament working upon a fine body within the wide limits of fashion.

~Max Beerbohm

Men prominent in life are mostly hard to converse with. They lack small-talk, and at the same time one doesn't like to confront them with their own great themes.

~Max Beerbohm

No Roman ever was able to say, 'I dined last night with the Borgias'.

~Max Beerbohm

Strange when you come to think of it, that of all countless folk who have lived on this planet, not one is known in history or in legend as having died of laughter.

~Max Beerbohm

It is easier to confess a defect than to claim a quality.

~Max Beerbohm

A quiet city is a contradiction in terms. It is a thing uncanny, spectral.

~Max Beerbohm

Zuleika, on a desert island, would have spent most of her time in looking for a man's footprint.

~Max Beerbohm

But to die of laughter--this, too, seems to me a great euthanasia.

~Max Beerbohm

I have known no man of genius who had not to pay, in some affliction or defect, either physical or spiritual, for what the gods had given him.

~Max Beerbohm

To give an accurate and exhaustive account of that period would need a far less brilliant pen than mine.

~Max Beerbohm

The lower one's vitality, the more sensitive one is to great art.

~Max Beerbohm

The dullard's envy of brilliant men is always assuaged by the suspicion that they will come to a bad end.

~Max Beerbohm

I am a Tory anarchist. I should like everyone to go about doing just as he pleased - short of altering any of the things to which I have grown accustomed.

~Max Beerbohm

As a teacher, as a propagandist, Mr. Shaw is no good at all, even in his own generation. But as a personality, he is immortal.

~Max Beerbohm

Admiration involves a glorious obliquity of vision.

~Max Beerbohm

The delicate balance between modesty and conceit is popularity.

~Max Beerbohm

Have you noticed ... there is never any third act in a nightmare? They bring you to a climax of terror and then leave you there. They are the work of poor dramatists.

~Max Beerbohm

You will find that the woman who is really kind to dogs is always one who has failed to inspire sympathy in men.

~Max Beerbohm

You cannot make a man by standing a sheep on its hind-legs. But by standing a flock of sheep in that position you can make a crowd of men.

~Max Beerbohm

Men of genius are not quick judges of character. Deep thinking and

high imagining blunt that trivial instinct by which you and I size people up.

~Max Beerbohm

Anything that is worth doing has been done frequently. Things hitherto undone should be given, I suspect, a wide berth.

~Max Beerbohm

Humility is a virtue, and it is a virtue innate in guests.

~Max Beerbohm

To destroy is still the strongest instinct of our nature.

~Max Beerbohm

Good sense about trivialities is better than nonsense about things that matter.

~Max Beerbohm

Men of genius are not quick judges of character.

~Max Beerbohm

To mankind in general Macbeth and Lady Macbeth stand out as the supreme type of all that a host and hostess should not be.

~Max Beerbohm

"After all," as a pretty girl once said to me, "women are a sex by themselves, so to speak."

~Max Beerbohm

There is much virtue in a window. It is to a human being as a frame is to a painting, as a proscenium to a play, as 'form' to literature. It strongly defines its content.

~Max Beerbohm

I may be old fashioned, but I am right.

~Max Beerbohm

Most women are not as young as they are painted.

~Max Beerbohm

Sometimes I feel that I am a natural born genius in a field of human endeavor that hasn't been invented yet

~Max Beerbohm

She was one of those people who said I don't know anything about music, but I know what I like.

~Max Beerbohm

Beauty and the lust for learning have yet to be allied.

~Max Beerbohm

Every kind of writing is hypocritical.

~Max Beerbohm

By its very looseness, by its way of evoking rather than defining, suggesting rather than saying, English is a magnificent vehicle for emotional poetry.

~Max Beerbohm

It is a fact that not once in all my life have I gone out for a walk. I have been taken out for walks; but that is another matter.

~Max Beerbohm

Not that I had any special reason for hating school. Strange as it may seem to my readers, I was not unpopular there. I was a modest, good-humoured boy. It is Oxford that has made me insufferable.

~Max Beerbohm

What a lurid life Oscar Wilde does lead - so full of extraordinary incidents. What a chance for the memoir writers of the next century

~Max Beerbohm

For people who like that kind of thing, this is the kind of thing they like.

~Max Beerbohm

I prefer that laughter shall take me unawares. Only so can it master and dissolve me.

~Max Beerbohm

The Socratic manner is not a game at which two can play.

~Max Beerbohm

The hospitable instinct is not wholly altruistic. There is pride and egoism mixed up with it.

~Max Beerbohm

A man's work is rather the needful supplement to himself than the outcome of it.

~Max Beerbohm

Women who love the same man have a kind of bitter freemasonry.

~Max Beerbohm

It is so much easier to covet what one hasn't than to revel in what one has. Also, it is so much easier to be enthusiastic about what exists than about what doesn't.

~Max Beerbohm

Of course we all know that Morris was a wonderful all-round man, but the act of walking round him has always tired me.

~Max Beerbohm

A crowd, proportionately to its size, magnifies all that in its units pertains to the emotions, and diminishes all that in them pertains to thought.

~Max Beerbohm

There is in the human race some dark spirit of recalcitrance, always pulling us in the direction contrary to that in which we are reasonably expected to go.

~Max Beerbohm

Somehow, our sense of justice never turns in its sleep till long after the sense of injustice in others has been thoroughly aroused.

~Max Beerbohm

Not philosophy, after all, not humanity, just sheer joyous power of song, is the primal thing in poetry.

~Max Beerbohm

The literary gift is a mere accident - is as often bestowed on idiots who have nothing to say worth hearing as it is denied to strenuous sages.

~Max Beerbohm

Reverence is a good thing, and part of its value is that the more we revere a man, the more sharply are we struck by anything in him (and there is always much) that is incongruous with his greatness.

~Max Beerbohm

Every one, even the richest and most munificent of men, pays much by cheque more light-heartedly than he pays little in specie.

~Max Beerbohm

The critic who justly admires all kinds of things simultaneously cannot love any one of them.

~Max Beerbohm

People seem to think there is something inherently noble and virtuous in the desire to go for a walk.

~Max Beerbohm

Golf: The most ... perfect expression of National Stupidity.

~Max Beerbohm

Fate weaves the darkness, which is perhaps why she weaves so badly.

~Max Beerbohm

Pessimism does win us great happy moments.

~Max Beerbohm

I believe the twenty-four hour day has come to stay.

~Max Beerbohm

The past is a work of art, free of irrelevancies and loose ends.

~Max Beerbohm

Great men are but life-sized. Most of them, indeed, are rather short.

~Max Beerbohm

The loveliest face in all the world will not please you if you see it suddenly eye to eye, at a distance of half an inch from your own.

~Max Beerbohm

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