

Murray Kempton Quotes

*Men, New York, Children, Reality, America, Political, Commitment, War, Earth,
Enemy, Destiny, Martyr, World, Distribution, Persons, Winning, People,
Philosophy, Communist, Wounded*

A political convention is just not a place where you come away with any trace of faith in human nature.

~Murray Kempton

A critic is someone who enters the battlefield after the war is over and shoots the wounded.

~Murray Kempton

No great scoundrel is ever uninteresting.

~Murray Kempton

There is a raging tiger inside every man whom God put on this earth. Every man worthy of the respect of his children spends his life building inside himself a cage to pen that tiger in.

~Murray Kempton

America... an economic system prouder of the distribution of its products than of the products themselves.

~Murray Kempton

It is not the least of a martyr's scourges to be canonized by the persons who burned him.

~Murray Kempton

It is function of government to invent philosophies to explain the demands of its own convenience.

~Murray Kempton

To say that an idea is fashionable is to say, I think, that it has been adulterated to a point where it is hardly an idea at all.

~Murray Kempton

The world of shabby gentility is like no other; its sacrifices have less logic, its standards are harsher, its relation to reality is dimmer than

comfortable property or plain poverty can understand.

~Murray Kempton

The beauty of a strong, lasting commitment is often best understood by a man incapable of it.

~Murray Kempton

The faces in New York remind me of people who played a game and lost.

~Murray Kempton

To be a gentleman is to be oneself, all of a seam, on camera and off.

~Murray Kempton

A neighborhood is where, when you go out of it, you get beat up.

~Murray Kempton

Men very seldom change, try though we will, beneath the shifts of exterior doctrine, our hearts so often remain what they were.

~Murray Kempton

A revolution requires of its leaders a record of unbroken infallibility; if they do not possess it, they are expected to invent it.

~Murray Kempton

A man can look upon his life and accept it as good or evil; it is far, far harder for him to confess that it has been unimportant in the sum of things.

~Murray Kempton

Every social war is a battle between the very few on both sides who care and who fire their shots across a crowd of spectators.

~Murray Kempton

As an organized political group, the Communists have done nothing to damage our society a fraction as much as what their enemies have done in the name of defending us against subversion.

~Murray Kempton

There are things a man must not do even to save a nation.

~Murray Kempton

The Communists offer one precious, fatal boon: they take away the sense of sin.

~Murray Kempton

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