

# Nawal El Saadawi

## Quotes

*Men, Egypt, People, Years, Revolution, Doctors, World, Religious, Writing,  
Mean, Book, Creative, Children, Husband, Rights, Justice, Military, Lying,  
Home, Way*

To be creative means to connect. It's to abolish the gap between the body, the mind and the soul, between science and art, between fiction and nonfiction.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Women are half the society. You cannot have a revolution without women. You cannot have democracy without women. You cannot have equality without women. You can't have anything without women.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Danger has been a part of my life ever since I picked up a pen and wrote. Nothing is more perilous than truth in a world that lies.

~Nawal El Saadawi

She is free to do what she wants, and free not to do it.

~Nawal El Saadawi

When we live in a world that is very unjust, you have to be a dissident.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Solidarity between women can be a powerful force of change, and can influence future development in ways favourable not only to women but also to men.

~Nawal El Saadawi

All the men I did get to know, every single man of them, has filled me with but one desire: to lift my hand and bring it smashing down on his face.

~Nawal El Saadawi

If you are creative, you must be dissident.

~Nawal El Saadawi

To have arrived at the truth means that one no longer fears death. For

death and truth are similar in that they both require a great courage if one wishes to face them.

~Nawal El Saadawi

To me, 'beauty' means to be natural, creative, honest - to say the truth.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Everybody has to die, Firdaus. I will die, and you will die. The important thing is how to live until you die.

~Nawal El Saadawi

There is a proverb that says, 'Talk so that I may know who you are.' But I say, 'Show me your eyes and I will know who you are.'

~Nawal El Saadawi

When you are intelligent and beautiful you face a lot of problems. If you are beautiful and stupid then it's easy.

~Nawal El Saadawi

You poor, deluded woman...do you believe there is any such thing as love?...You're living an illusion. Do you believe the words of love they whisper in the ears of penniless women like us?

~Nawal El Saadawi

They said, 'You are a savage and dangerous woman.' I am speaking the truth. And the truth is savage and dangerous.

~Nawal El Saadawi

When my second husband shouted, 'Me or your writing!' I replied, 'My writing.' We separated.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Nothing is more perilous than truth in a world that lies.

~Nawal El Saadawi

moral codes and standards in our societies very rarely apply to all people equally. This is the most damning proof of how immoral such codes and standards really are.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Plastic surgery is a postmodern veil.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Who said to kill does not require gentleness?

~Nawal El Saadawi

We never know the reality of things: we see only what we are aware of. It is our consciousness that determines the shape of the world around us -- its size, motion and meaning.

~Nawal El Saadawi

The feminists who are aware of the effects of patriarchy realize that we are all in the same boat from the dangers of patriarchy, and that the oppression of women is universal.

~Nawal El Saadawi

The family code in Egypt is one of the worst family codes in the Arab world. Polygamy. The husband is having absolute power over the family.

~Nawal El Saadawi

I am very much against makeup and high heels and all that we inherit as 'beauty.'

~Nawal El Saadawi

Man ... put himself in a tight corner when he decided that woman was innately passive.

~Nawal El Saadawi

If you do not love yourself, well, you cannot do anything well, that's my philosophy.

~Nawal El Saadawi

I now knew that all of us were prostitutes who sold themselves at varying prices, and that an expensive prostitute was better than a cheap one.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Many people come here and they think my apartment is a poor relative to my name. But you cannot be radical and have money, it's impossible.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Love has made me a different person. It has made the world beautiful.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Language, journalism, food, sex. All is politics. Even innocent love stories are politics. ... There is no such thing as neutrality.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Fearing servility, people become servile.

~Nawal El Saadawi

We see our homeland more clearly when we are away from it than when we are in it.

~Nawal El Saadawi

I had to educate myself about female circumcision, about the clitoris, about sexology. We studied gynecology only. Pregnancy, maternal care, etc.

~Nawal El Saadawi

The trilogy composed of politics, religion and sex is the most sensitive

of all issues in any society.

~Nawal El Saadawi

I am becoming more radical with age. I have noticed that writers, when they are old, become milder. But for me it is the opposite. Age makes me more angry.

~Nawal El Saadawi

We here in Egypt are fed up with U.S. colonialism.

~Nawal El Saadawi

But I feel that you, in particular, are a person who cannot live without love." "Yet I am living without love." "Then you are either living a lie or not living at all.

~Nawal El Saadawi

I have triumphed over both life and death because I no longer desire to live, nor do I any longer fear to die.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Home to me is the world because my books have been translated into more than 30 languages.

~Nawal El Saadawi

The slogan of the revolution was dignity, social justice, and freedom. You cannot have dignity or social justice or freedom without women.

~Nawal El Saadawi

My skin is soft, but my heart is cruel, and my bite is deadly.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Memory is never complete. There are always parts of it that time has amputated. Writing is a way of retrieving them, of bringing the missing parts back to it, of making it more holistic.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Life is very hard. The only people who really live are those who are harder than life itself.

~Nawal El Saadawi

We cannot be liberated as women in a society built on class oppression or gender oppression or religious oppression.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Doubt is the first step towards knowledge, not faith.

~Nawal El Saadawi

You know, I look to myself mainly as a creative writer all my life and a medical doctor.

~Nawal El Saadawi

There is not a revolution that succe Women were everywhere in the revolution. Women participated in it, and many women were killed.

~Nawal El Saadawi

First of all, all writing includes some part of the self. The relationship of the self and the other exists in writing, whether autobiographical or novel. There is a self and an other.

~Nawal El Saadawi

There was not a single Islamic slogan [in Egypt]. It was secular men and women, and in fact, they were unified. Now they want to divide the revolution, and religion is a very strong weapon.

~Nawal El Saadawi

I practiced medicine up 'til now. I practice psychiatry. I shifted from different specialties. I started as a village doctor - community doctor, public health preventive medicine.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Truth is relative, and there is always something missing in truth that prevents it from being perfect.

~Nawal El Saadawi

In history, the millions win; that is democracy.

~Nawal El Saadawi

My three husbands were afraid of me. I am a very powerful woman.

~Nawal El Saadawi

I've lived in Egypt among Christians and Muslims, and we never had a conflict. Now you have a conflict between Christians and Muslims and Baha'is and Sunni and Shia.

~Nawal El Saadawi

All revolutions in history have obstacles. There is not a revolution that succeeds.

~Nawal El Saadawi

You cannot have dignity or social justice or freedom without women.

~Nawal El Saadawi

During the '80s I wrote *Memoirs from the Women's Prison*. This is one of my most important books. It came out in Arabic in '83. About my experience in prison.

~Nawal El Saadawi

I knew I hated him as only a woman can hate a man, as only a slave can hate his master.

~Nawal El Saadawi

War criminals in the U.S. and Israel are not punished: no international



court has the courage to put them on trial.

~Nawal El Saadawi

The tracing of a child's lineage and its name with reference to the father, though it has lasted for many thousands of years, has not become any the more natural or reasonable as a result.

~Nawal El Saadawi

All revolutions in history have obstacles.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Woman at Point Zero I wrote during the '70s in Arabic. It came in English in '82. So, almost ten years' difference between the Arabic and the English.

~Nawal El Saadawi

There is not a revolution that succe Women are suffering because they are being excluded. The high military council excluded women from the committee to change the constitution.

~Nawal El Saadawi

People like [Memoirs of a Woman Doctor], whether young people, young women, even critics - male critics - they were not shocked by it. Of course, some parts were cut.

~Nawal El Saadawi

I was inspired by my life. I was inspired by the lives of many women doctors around me. So [Memoirs of a Woman Doctor ] is a mixture.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Revolutionary men with principles were not really different from the rest. They used their cleverness to get, in return for principles, what other men buy with their money.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Unity is power; without unity women cannot fight for their rights anywhere.

~Nawal El Saadawi

Home is where you are appreciated, safe and protected, creative, and where you are loved - not where you are put in prison.

~Nawal El Saadawi

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