

Nelson Algren Quotes

*Writing, Cities, Men, Book, Mom, Helping, Sleep, Creative, Want, Heart, Way,
Spring, Knowing, Fog, Poverty, Dark, Literature, Broken Heart, Rap, Car*

And never, ever, no matter what else you do in your whole life, never sleep with anyone whose troubles are worse than your own.

~Nelson Algren

Chicago is an October sort of city even in spring.

~Nelson Algren

When we get more houses than we can live in, more cars than we can ride in, more food than we can eat ourselves, the only way of getting richer is by cutting off those who don't have enough.

~Nelson Algren

Never play cards with a man called Doc. Never eat at a place called Mom's. Never sleep with a woman whose troubles are worse than your own.

~Nelson Algren

Yet once you've come to be part of this particular patch, you'll never love another. Like loving a woman with a broken nose, you may well find lovelier lovelies. But never a lovely so real.

~Nelson Algren

A book, a true book, is the writer's confessional. For, whether he would have it so or not, he is betrayed, directly or indirectly, by his characters, into presenting publicly his innermost feelings.

~Nelson Algren

Any writer who knows what he's doing isn't doing very much.

~Nelson Algren

For the masses who do the city's labor also keep the city's heart.

~Nelson Algren

Watch for a wild boy of no particular clan, ready for anything, always

armed. Prefers fighting to toil, drink to fighting, chasing women to booze or battle: may attempt all three concurrently.

~Nelson Algren

... Chicago divided your heart. Leaving you loving the joint for keeps. Yet knowing it never can love you.

~Nelson Algren

Never lie down with a woman who's got more troubles than you.

~Nelson Algren

The hard necessity of bringing the judge on the bench down into the dock has been the peculiar responsibility of the writer in all ages of man.

~Nelson Algren

To literary critics a book is assumed to be guilty until it proves itself innocent.

~Nelson Algren

The avocation of assessing the failures of better men can be turned into a comfortable livelihood, providing you back it up with a Ph.D.

~Nelson Algren

(Chicago is) the only major city in the country where you can easily buy your way out of a murder rap.

~Nelson Algren

Loving Chicago is like loving a woman with a broken nose.

~Nelson Algren

Literature is made upon any occasion that a challenge is put to the legal apparatus by conscience in touch with humanity.

~Nelson Algren

I went out there for a thousand a week, and I worked Monday, and I got fired Wednesday. The guy that hired me was out of town Tuesday.

~Nelson Algren

There's people in hell who want ice water.

~Nelson Algren

It is strange how fragile this man-creature is.....in one second he's just garbage. Garbage, that's all.

~Nelson Algren

I don't recommend being a bachelor, but it helps if you want to write.

~Nelson Algren

The only way I could finish a book and get a plot was just to keep making it longer until something happens.

~Nelson Algren

Our myths are so many, our vision so dim, our self-deception so deep and our smugness so gross that scarcely any way now remains of reporting the American Century except from behind the billboards.

~Nelson Algren

And money can't buy everything. For example: poverty.

~Nelson Algren

The devil lives in a double-shot", Roman explains himself obscurely. "I got a great worm inside. Gnaws and gnaws. Every day I drown him and every day he gnaws. Help me drown the worm, fellas.

~Nelson Algren

Never eat in a place called 'Mom's'.

~Nelson Algren

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