

Peter De Vries

Quotes

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Gluttony is an emotional escape, a sign something is eating us.

~Peter De Vries

I love being a writer. What I can't stand is the paperwork.

~Peter De Vries

Murals in restaurants are on a par with the food in museums.

~Peter De Vries

Life is a zoo in a jungle.

~Peter De Vries

It is the final proof of God's omnipotence that he need not exist in order to save us.

~Peter De Vries

You can make a sordid thing sound like a brilliant drawing-room comedy. Probably a fear we have of facing up to the real issues. Could you say we were guilty of Noel Cowardice?

~Peter De Vries

I write when I'm inspired, and I see to it that I'm inspired at nine o'clock every morning.

~Peter De Vries

The difficulty with marriage is that we fall in love with a personality, but must live with a character.

~Peter De Vries

The value of marriage is not that adults produce children but that children produce adults.

~Peter De Vries

A hundred years ago Hester Prynne of *The Scarlet Letter* was given an

A for adultery; today she would rate no better than a C-plus.

~Peter De Vries

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after.

~Peter De Vries

When I see a paragraph shrinking under my eyes like a strip of bacon in a skillet, I know I'm on the right track.

~Peter De Vries

There are times when breakfast seems the one thing worth getting up for.

~Peter De Vries

The bonds of matrimony are like any other bonds - they mature slowly.

~Peter De Vries

Celibacy is the worst form of self-abuse.

~Peter De Vries

Life is a crowded superhighway with bewildering cloverleaf exits on which a man is liable to find himself speeding back in the direction he came.

~Peter De Vries

We must love one another, yes, yes, that's all true enough, but nothing says we have to like each other.

~Peter De Vries

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

~Peter De Vries

We know the human brain is a device to keep the ears from grating on

one another.

~Peter De Vries

The universe is like a safe to which there is a combination. But the combination is locked up in the safe.

~Peter De Vries

The satirist shoots to kill while the humorist brings his prey back alive and eventually releases him again for another chance.

~Peter De Vries

Everybody hates me because I'm so universally liked.

~Peter De Vries

Words fashioned with somewhat over precise diction are like shapes turned out by a cookie cutter.

~Peter De Vries

When I can no longer bear to think of the victims of broken homes, I begin to think of the victims of intact ones.

~Peter De Vries

I was thinking that we all learn by experience, but some of us have to go to summer school.

~Peter De Vries

The rich aren't like us, they pay less taxes.

~Peter De Vries

There are times when parenthood seems nothing more than feeding the hand that bites you.

~Peter De Vries

If there's anything I hate it's the word humorist-I feel like countering with

the word seriousist.

~Peter De Vries

We turned on one another deep, drowned gazes, and exchanged a kiss that reduced my bones to rubber and my brain to gruel.

~Peter De Vries

The tuba is certainly the most intestinal of instruments, the very lower bowel of music.

~Peter De Vries

Confession is good for the soul only in the sense that a tweed coat is good for dandruff - it is a palliative rather than a remedy.

~Peter De Vries

My father hated radio and could not wait for television to be invented so he could hate that too.

~Peter De Vries

We are not primarily put on this earth to see through one another, but to see one another through.

~Peter De Vries

Look at it this way: Psychoanalysis is a permanent fad.

~Peter De Vries

Do you believe in astrology? -I don't even believe in astronomy.

~Peter De Vries

All couples must bear the strain of getting acquainted, having been, up to then, merely intimate.

~Peter De Vries

Anyone informed that the universe is expanding and contracting in

pulsations of eighty billion years has a right to ask. What's in it for me?

~Peter De Vries

Sex in marriage is like medicine. Three times a day for the first week. Then once a day for another week. Then once every three or four days till the condition clears up.

~Peter De Vries

How do you expect mankind to be happy in pairs when it is miserable separately?

~Peter De Vries

We are nothing but a string of gut on a stick of bone riding this piece of astral soot for one piteous splinter of eternity.

~Peter De Vries

This human nature is shabby stuff, as you may know from introspection.

~Peter De Vries

Let us hope, I prayed, that a kind Providence will put a speedy end to the acts of God under which we have been laboring.

~Peter De Vries

Try the Lamentations of Jeremiah. They always pick me up.

~Peter De Vries

The trouble with treating people as equals is that the first thing you know they may be doing the same thing to you.

~Peter De Vries

Pain is the question mark turned like a fishhook in the human heart.

~Peter De Vries

The writer can only explore the inner space of his characters by perceptively navigating his own.

~Peter De Vries

A politician is a man who can be verbose in fewer words than anyone else.

~Peter De Vries

I think people love each other a little more than they hate each other ... Love has a slim hold on the human corporation, like fifty-one per cent, but it's enough.

~Peter De Vries

People rarely do what they don't want to.

~Peter De Vries

Exercise is an unnatural act.

~Peter De Vries

I tried to write worse but it was no good; my generalizations came out as before, each more exquisite than the last. I grew discouraged.

~Peter De Vries

Man is vile, I know, but people are wonderful.

~Peter De Vries

We pay for security with boredom, for adventure with bother.

~Peter De Vries

What people believe is a measure of what they suffer.

~Peter De Vries

Marriage has driven more than one man to sex.

~Peter De Vries

I wondered whether any woman could be happy with a man who says 'folderol'.

~Peter De Vries

Mrs Thicknesse and I agreed that a business of his own was probably the only solution for him because he was obviously unemployable.

~Peter De Vries

Why is the awfulness of families such a popular reason for starting another?

~Peter De Vries

I can still hear my mother wailing over some new kitchen crisis, "Oh God," and my father answering cozily from the silo, "Were you calling me, dear?"

~Peter De Vries

I made a tentative conclusion. It seemed from all of this that uppermost among human joys is the negative one of restoration: not going to the stars, but learning that one may stay where one is.

~Peter De Vries

Before the mind snaps, or the heart breaks, it gather itself like a clock about to strike. It might even be said one pulls himself together to disintegrate.

~Peter De Vries

Rather than waste precious time arguing, I went up and started serving my "sentence" without delay. It was usually about an hour for epigrams; somewhat longer for a paradox.

~Peter De Vries

What we are assigned to bear is in a sense a measure of our stature.

~Peter De Vries

I suppose I shall marry eventually One does that, one drifts into stability

~Peter De Vries

... it is a fact universally acknowledged that a husband is the most ridiculous thing on earth, except for a bachelor.

~Peter De Vries

Are you pro- or anti-macassar?

~Peter De Vries

Time heals nothing â€” which should make us the better able to minister.

~Peter De Vries

Love's blindness consists oftener in seeing what is not there than in seeing what is.

~Peter De Vries

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