

Quentin Crisp Quotes

*People, Thinking, Men, Love, America, Ifs, Funny, Sex, Way, England, Faces,
Inspirational, Mother, Giving, Want, Style, Believe, Two, Mistake, Real*

Though intelligence is powerless to modify character, it is a dab hand at finding euphemisms for its weaknesses.

~Quentin Crisp

I simply haven't the nerve to imagine a being, a force, a cause which keeps the planets revolving in their orbits and then suddenly stops in order to give me a bicycle with three speeds.

~Quentin Crisp

I don't think you can really be proud of being gay because it isn't something you've done. You can only be proud of not being ashamed.

~Quentin Crisp

Posing was the first job I did in which I understood what I was doing.

~Quentin Crisp

In an expanding universe, time is on the side of the outcast.

~Quentin Crisp

Fashion is what you adopt when you don't know who you are.

~Quentin Crisp

My mother protected me from the world and my father threatened me with it.

~Quentin Crisp

The poverty from which I have suffered could be diagnosed as 'Soho' poverty. It comes from having the airs and graces of a genius and no talent.

~Quentin Crisp

Vice is its own reward.

~Quentin Crisp

Never keep up with the Joneses. Drag them down to your level.

~Quentin Crisp

No effort is required to define or even attain happiness, but enormous concentration is needed to abandon everything else.

~Quentin Crisp

Nearly always when actors are approached by the beauticians, they try to avoid the dabs that the beauticians put on their faces. They dodge them.

~Quentin Crisp

You fall out of your mother's womb, you crawl across open country under fire, and drop into your grave.

~Quentin Crisp

The curiosity of the neighbors about you, is a tribute to your individuality, and you should encourage it

~Quentin Crisp

The young always have the same problem - how to rebel and conform at the same time. They have now solved this by defying their parents and copying one another.

~Quentin Crisp

Exhibitionism is like a drug. Hooked in adolescence I was now taking doses so massive they would have killed a novice.

~Quentin Crisp

It's no good running a pig farm badly for 30 years while saying, 'Really, I was meant to be a ballet dancer.' By then, pigs will be your style.

~Quentin Crisp

Euphemisms are unpleasant truths wearing diplomatic cologne.

~Quentin Crisp

The formula for achieving a successful relationship is simple: you should treat all disasters as if they were trivialities but never treat a triviality as if it were a disaster.

~Quentin Crisp

In an expanding universe, time is on the side of the outcast. Those who once inhabited the suburbs of human contempt find that without changing their address they eventually live in the metropolis.

~Quentin Crisp

Fashion is a way of not having to decide who you are. Style is deciding who you are and being able to perpetuate it.

~Quentin Crisp

The law is simply expediency wearing a long white dress.

~Quentin Crisp

To live in the past is to miss today's opportunities and tomorrow's blessings.

~Quentin Crisp

The British do not expect happiness. I had the impression, all the time that I lived there, that they do not want to be happy; they want to be right.

~Quentin Crisp

For flavor, instant sex will never supersede the stuff you have to peel and cook.

~Quentin Crisp

Believe in fate, but lean forward where fate can see you.

~Quentin Crisp

It may be true that artists adopt a flamboyant appearance, but it's also true that people who look funny get stuck with the arts.

~Quentin Crisp

The continued propinquity of another human being cramps the style after a time unless that person is somebody you think you love. Then the burden becomes intolerable at once.

~Quentin Crisp

Life was a funny thing that happened to me on the way to the grave.

~Quentin Crisp

Manners are a way of getting what you want without appearing to be an absolute swine.

~Quentin Crisp

When asked, 'Shall I tell my mother I'm gay?', I reply, 'Never tell your mother anything.'

~Quentin Crisp

Living en famille provides the strongest motives for rudeness combined with the maximum opportunity for displaying it.

~Quentin Crisp

What would you be like if you were the only person in the world? If you want to be truly happy you must be that person.

~Quentin Crisp

To my disappointment I now realized that to know all is not to forgive all. It is to despise everybody.

~Quentin Crisp

The trouble with children is that they're not returnable.

~Quentin Crisp

If at first you don't succeed, failure may be your style.

~Quentin Crisp

However low a man sinks he never reaches the level of the police.

~Quentin Crisp

The very purpose of existence is to reconcile the glowing opinion we hold of ourselves with the appalling things that other people think about us.

~Quentin Crisp

All liaisons between homosexuals are conducted as though they were between a chorus girl and a bishop. In some cases both parties think they are bishops.

~Quentin Crisp

To love another person you have to undertake some fragment of their destiny.

~Quentin Crisp

Men get laid, but women get screwed.

~Quentin Crisp

In England, nobody's your friend.

~Quentin Crisp

The proprietor had hair so red that pigmentation had flowed out into every visible inch of his skin and even into the pinks of his eyes, as the colour of flowering cherry trees stains their leaves.

~Quentin Crisp

Politics are not an instrument for effecting social change; they are the art of making the inevitable appear to be a matter of wise human choice.

~Quentin Crisp

I take it to be axiomatic that people are revolted by witnessing the shameless gratification of an appetite they do not share.

~Quentin Crisp

It's been agony but I couldn't have done it any other way.

~Quentin Crisp

For an introvert his environment is himself and can never be subject to startling or unforeseen change.

~Quentin Crisp

Love is not enough. It must be the foundation, the cornerstone - but not the complete structure. It is much too pliable, too yielding.

~Quentin Crisp

Rome did not create a great empire by having meetings, they did it by killing all those who opposed them. If at first you don't succeed, failure may be your style.

~Quentin Crisp

Of course I lie to people. But I lie altruistically - for our mutual good. The lie is the basic building block of good manners. That may seem mildly shocking to a moralist - but then what isn't?

~Quentin Crisp

Our clothes are too much a part of us for most of us ever to be entirely indifferent to their condition: it is as though the fabric were indeed a natural extension of the body, or even of the soul.

~Quentin Crisp

Development of character consists solely in moving toward self-sufficiency.

~Quentin Crisp

It is not the simple statement of facts that ushers in freedom; it is the constant repetition of them that has this liberating effect. Tolerance is the result not of enlightenment, but of boredom.

~Quentin Crisp

What is privacy if not for invading?

~Quentin Crisp

Bit by bit, I was becoming the almost acceptable face of homosexuality.

~Quentin Crisp

A fair share of anything is starvation diet to an egomaniac.

~Quentin Crisp

An autobiography is an obituary in serial form with the last installment missing.

~Quentin Crisp

The war between the sexes is the only one in which both sides regularly sleep with the enemy.

~Quentin Crisp

Is not the whole world a vast house of assignation of which the filing system has been lost?

~Quentin Crisp

Mass-murderers are simply people who have had ENOUGH.

~Quentin Crisp

When asked to give advice, I do of course give it, because I give whatever I am asked to give.

~Quentin Crisp

Other-cheekism is not only a way of purifying the soul, it is also part of every weak person's survival kit.

~Quentin Crisp

There is no need to do any housework at all. After the first four years the dirt doesn't get any worse.

~Quentin Crisp

If you truly love me, kill the bartender.

~Quentin Crisp

I never spend my time doing anything I'll have to do again tomorrow.

~Quentin Crisp

It's a strange situation, but people will pay your fare to get you to go and tell them how to be happy.

~Quentin Crisp

One should always be wary of anyone who promises that their love will last longer than a weekend.

~Quentin Crisp

Ask yourself, if there was to be no blame, and if there was to be no praise, who would I be then?

~Quentin Crisp

Los Angeles is just New York lying down.

~Quentin Crisp

I don't hold with abroad and think that foreigners speak English when our backs are turned.

~Quentin Crisp

I am asked how to remain young, and I say 'Never, never work.' And that, of course, is the secret of it.

~Quentin Crisp

The absolute nothingness of death is a blessing. Something to look forward to.

~Quentin Crisp

You should make no effort to try to join society, stay right where you are. Give your name and serial number and wait for society to come to you.

~Quentin Crisp

This woman did not fly to extremes; she lived there.

~Quentin Crisp

Nothing more rapidly inclines a person to go into a monastery than reading a book on etiquette. There are so many trivial ways in which it is possible to commit some social sin.

~Quentin Crisp

If you don't stay in some days, you can't recharge your batteries.

~Quentin Crisp

Nothing shortens a journey so pleasantly as an account of misfortunes at which the hearer is permitted to laugh.

~Quentin Crisp

If love means anything at all it means extending your hand to the unlovable.

~Quentin Crisp

The worst part of being gay in the twentieth century is all that damn disco music to which one has to listen.

~Quentin Crisp

You must stop this interview now as I have come to end of my personality.

~Quentin Crisp

The idea that He would take his attention away from the universe in order to give me a bicycle with three speeds is just so unlikely I can't go along with it.

~Quentin Crisp

Vice is its own reward. It is virtue which, if it is to be marketed with consumer appeal, must carry Green Shield stamps.

~Quentin Crisp

A gentleman doesn't pounce he glides. If a woman sits on a piece of furniture which permits your sitting beside her, you are free to regard this as an invitation, though not an unequivocal one.

~Quentin Crisp

I am told that you regret not what you did but what you didn't do; and so that's why I do everything, so as not to have any regrets.

~Quentin Crisp

Decency must be an even more exhausting state to maintain than its opposite. Those who succeed seem to need a stupefying amount of sleep.

~Quentin Crisp

I recommend limiting one's involvement in other people's lives to a pleasantly scant minimum.

~Quentin Crisp

Whenever we confront an unbridled desire we are surely in the

presence of a tragedy-in-the-making.

~Quentin Crisp

I never say 'No' to anything.

~Quentin Crisp

I was amazed to receive later a substantial sum for sitting in my room and talking about myself. If only I could get some of the back pay!

~Quentin Crisp

Manners are love in a cool climate.

~Quentin Crisp

The trouble with European cities is that they are drenched in their history, almost all of which is terrible.

~Quentin Crisp

Health consists of having the same diseases as one's neighbors.

~Quentin Crisp

Why get married? For human beings, marriage is such an unnatural state. If you want monogamy, it has been said, you should marry a swan.

~Quentin Crisp

Sex is the last refuge of the miserable.

~Quentin Crisp

Even hooligans marry, though they know that marriage is for a little while. It is alimony that is for ever.

~Quentin Crisp

Even a monotonously undeviating path of self-examination does not necessarily lead to self-knowledge. I stumble towards my grave

confused and hurt and hungry.

~Quentin Crisp

That's the only sense in which I've been lucky: I have the kind of face to which cosmetics could be applied.

~Quentin Crisp

As a test of the closeness of your relationship with the world, sex could never be a patch on being murdered. (That's when someone really does risk his life for you.)

~Quentin Crisp

Charisma is the ability to influence without logic.

~Quentin Crisp

In England, the system is benign and the people are hostile. In America, the people are friendly and the system is brutal!

~Quentin Crisp

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