

Raymond Chandler Quotes

*Writing, Men, Art, Book, People, Mean, Real, Reading, Littles, Thinking, Gun,
Funny, Two, Eye, Drinking, Years, Girl, Hollywood, Long, Way*

When I split an infinitive, God damn it, I split it so it stays split.

~Raymond Chandler

Down these mean streets a man must go who is neither tarnished nor afraid

~Raymond Chandler

He looked about as inconspicuous as a tarantula on a slice of angel food.

~Raymond Chandler

Some are able and humane men and some are low-grade individuals with the morals of a goat, the artistic integrity of a slot machine, and the manners of a floorwalker with delusions of grandeur.

~Raymond Chandler

It was a blonde. A blonde to make a bishop kick a hole in a stained-glass window.

~Raymond Chandler

There are two kinds of truth; The truth that lights the way and the truth that warms the heart. The first of these is science and the second is art.

~Raymond Chandler

It seemed like a nice neighborhood to have bad habits in.

~Raymond Chandler

The challenge of screenwriting is to say much in little and then take half of that little out and still preserve an effect of leisure and natural movement

~Raymond Chandler

At least half the mystery novels published violate the law that the solution, once revealed, must seem to be inevitable.

~Raymond Chandler

Chess is as elaborate a waste of human intelligence as you can find outside an advertising agency.

~Raymond Chandler

I'm an occasional drinker, the kind of guy who goes out for a beer and wakes up in Singapore with a full beard.

~Raymond Chandler

To say goodbye is to die a little.

~Raymond Chandler

There is no bad whiskey. There are only some whiskeys that aren't as good as others.

~Raymond Chandler

A good story cannot be devised; it has to be distilled.

~Raymond Chandler

Throw up into your typewriter every morning. Clean up every noon.

~Raymond Chandler

The girl gave him a look which ought to have stuck at least four inches out of his back.

~Raymond Chandler

Dead men are heavier than broken hearts.

~Raymond Chandler

I hung up. It was a good start, but it didn't go far enough. I ought to have locked the door and hidden under the desk.

~Raymond Chandler

There is no trap so deadly as the trap you set for yourself.

~Raymond Chandler

There was a sad fellow over on a bar stool talking to the bartender, who was polishing a glass and listening with that plastic smile people wear when they are trying not to scream.

~Raymond Chandler

She smelled the way the Taj Mahal looks by moonlight.

~Raymond Chandler

Organized crime is the dirty side of the sharp dollar.

~Raymond Chandler

From 30 feet away she looked like a lot of class. From 10 feet away she looked like something made up to be seen from 30 feet away.

~Raymond Chandler

She gave me a smile I could feel in my hip pocket.

~Raymond Chandler

Most people go through life using up half their energy trying to protect a dignity they never had

~Raymond Chandler

I think a man ought to get drunk at least twice a year just on principle, so he won't let himself get snotty about it.

~Raymond Chandler

When in doubt, have a man come through the door with a gun in his hand.

~Raymond Chandler

I needed a drink, I needed a lot of life insurance, I needed a vacation, I

needed a home in the country. What I had was a coat, a hat and a gun. I put them on and went out of the room.

~Raymond Chandler

The French have a phrase for it. The bastards have a phrase for everything and they are always right. To say goodbye is to die a little.

~Raymond Chandler

The moment a man sets his thoughts down on paper, however secretly, he is in a sense writing for publication.

~Raymond Chandler

The streets were dark with something more than night.

~Raymond Chandler

It is pretty obvious that the debasement of the human mind caused by a constant flow of fraudulent advertising is no trivial thing. There is more than one way to conquer a country

~Raymond Chandler

You can always tell a detective on TV. He never takes his hat off.

~Raymond Chandler

I certainly admire people who do things.

~Raymond Chandler

Alcohol is like love. The first kiss is magic, the second is intimate, the third is routine. After that you take the girl's clothes off.

~Raymond Chandler

A writer who is afraid to overreach himself is as useless as a general who is afraid to be wrong.

~Raymond Chandler

If you're not tough it's hard to survive in this world; and if you're not kind then you don't deserve to survive.

~Raymond Chandler

The test of a writer is whether you want to read him again years after he should by the rules be dated.

~Raymond Chandler

I was as hollow and empty as the spaces between stars.

~Raymond Chandler

In everything that can be called art there is a quality of redemption.

~Raymond Chandler

I'm in a wild mood tonight. I want to go dance in the foam. I hear the banshees calling.

~Raymond Chandler

As honest as you could expect a man to be in a world where it's out of style.

~Raymond Chandler

Show me a man or woman who cannot stand mysteries and I will show you a fool, a clever fool - perhaps - but a fool just the same.

~Raymond Chandler

Some days I feel like playing it smooth. Some days I feel like playing it like a waffle iron.

~Raymond Chandler

Mostly I just kill time," he said, "and it dies hard.

~Raymond Chandler

The faster I write the better my output. If I'm going slow, I'm in trouble. It

means I'm pushing the words instead of being pulled by them.

~Raymond Chandler

A really good detective never gets married.

~Raymond Chandler

Dashiell Hammett took murder out of the Venetian vase and dropped it into the alley.

~Raymond Chandler

The most durable thing in writing is style, and style is the single most valuable investment a writer can make with his time.

~Raymond Chandler

Technique alone is never enough. You have to have passion.

Technique alone is just an embroidered potholder.

~Raymond Chandler

An age which is incapable of poetry is incapable of any kind of literature except the cleverness of a decadence.

~Raymond Chandler

Police business is a hell of a problem. It's a good deal like politics. It asks for the highest type of men, and there's nothing in it to attract the highest type of men.

~Raymond Chandler

I guess God made Boston on a wet Sunday.

~Raymond Chandler

Everything a writer learns about the art or craft of fiction takes just a little away from his need or desire to write at all. In the end he knows all the tricks and has nothing to say.

~Raymond Chandler

It was a cool day and very clear. You could see a long way-but not as far as Velma had gone.

~Raymond Chandler

Without magic, there is no art. Without art, there is no idealism. Without idealism, there is no integrity. Without integrity, there is nothing but production.

~Raymond Chandler

You can have a hangover from other things than alcohol. I had one from women.

~Raymond Chandler

The wet air was as cold as the ashes of love.

~Raymond Chandler

The dilemma of the critic has always been that if he knows enough to speak with authority, he knows too much to speak with detachment.

~Raymond Chandler

She was kind of girl who'd eat all your cashews and leave you with nothing but peanuts and filberts.

~Raymond Chandler

You're broke, eh?" I been shaking two nickels together for a month, trying to get them to mate.

~Raymond Chandler

The best way to find out if you have any friends is to go broke. The ones that hang on longest are your friends. I don't mean the ones that hang on forever. There aren't any of those.

~Raymond Chandler

When a book, any sort of book, reaches a certain intensity of artistic

performance it becomes literature.

~Raymond Chandler

I don't mind if you don't like my manners. They're pretty bad. I grieve over them during the long winter evenings.

~Raymond Chandler

The flood of print has turned reading into a process of gulping rather than savoring.

~Raymond Chandler

Under the thinning fog the surf curled and creamed, almost without sound, like a thought trying to form in itself on the edge of consciousness.

~Raymond Chandler

Love interest nearly always weakens a mystery because it introduces a type of suspense that is antagonistic to the detective's struggle to solve a problem.

~Raymond Chandler

I like smooth shiny girls, hardboiled and loaded with sin.

~Raymond Chandler

Neither of the two people in the room paid any attention to the way I came in, although only one of them was dead.

~Raymond Chandler

Most critical writing is drivel and half of it is dishonest. It is a short cut to oblivion, anyway. Thinking in terms of ideas destroys the power to think in terms of emotions and sensations.

~Raymond Chandler

She jerked away from me like a startled fawn might, if I had a startled

fawn and it jerked away from me.

~Raymond Chandler

The growth of populations has in no way increased the amount [of art], it has merely increased the adeptness with which substitutes can be produced and packaged.

~Raymond Chandler

Woe, woe, woe... in a little while we shall all be dead. Therefore let us behave as though we were dead already.

~Raymond Chandler

I knew one thing: as soon as anyone said you didn't need a gun, you'd better take one along that worked.

~Raymond Chandler

Good critical writing is measured by the perception and evaluation of the subject; bad critical writing by the necessity of maintaining the professional standing of the critic.

~Raymond Chandler

The more you reason the less you create.

~Raymond Chandler

Hammett gave murder back to the kind of people that commit it for reasons, not just to provide a corpse; and with the means at hand, not hand-wrought dueling pistols, curare and tropical fish.

~Raymond Chandler

If my books had been any worse, I should not have been invited to Hollywood, and if they had been any better, I should not have come.

~Raymond Chandler

She had eyes like strange sins.

~Raymond Chandler

A real gimlet is half gin and half Rose's lime juice and nothing else.

~Raymond Chandler

I suppose all writers are crazy, but if they are any good, I believe they have a terrible honesty.

~Raymond Chandler

The English may not always be the best writers in the world, but they are incomparably the best dull writers.

~Raymond Chandler

Dames lie about anything - just for practice.

~Raymond Chandler

Great critics, of whom there are piteously few, build a home for the truth.

~Raymond Chandler

As it is she will probably turn out to be one of these acid-faced virgins that sit behind little desks in public libraries and stamp dates in books.

~Raymond Chandler

It is not a fragrant world.

~Raymond Chandler

Everything written with vitality expresses that vitality: there are no dull subjects, only dull minds.

~Raymond Chandler

The modern film tries too hard to be real. Its techniques of illusion are so perfect that it requires no contribution from the audience but a mouthful of popcorn.

~Raymond Chandler

I was neat, clean, shaved and sober and I didn't care who knew it.

~Raymond Chandler

Hollywood is wonderful. Anyone who doesn't like it is either crazy or sober.

~Raymond Chandler

The perfect detective story cannot be written. The type of mind which can evolve the perfect problem is not the type of mind that can produce the artistic job of writing.

~Raymond Chandler

There are no vital and significant forms of art; there is only art, and precious little of that.

~Raymond Chandler

I have made three rules of writing for myself that are absolutes: Never take advice. Never show or discuss work in progress. Never answer a critic.

~Raymond Chandler

A good title is the title of a successful book.

~Raymond Chandler

I sat down on the edge of a deep soft chair and looked at Mrs Regan. She was worth a stare. She was trouble.

~Raymond Chandler

And the commercials would have sickened a goat raised on barbed wire and broken beer bottles.

~Raymond Chandler

Courage is a strange thing: One can never be sure of it

~Raymond Chandler

Two very simple rules: A. You don't have to write. B. You can't do anything else. The rest comes of itself.

~Raymond Chandler

He sounded like a man who had slept well and didn't owe too much money.

~Raymond Chandler

I do a great deal of research, especially in the apartments of tall blondes.

~Raymond Chandler

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