

Renata Adler Quotes

*People, Sleep, Thinking, Self, Movie, Writing, Philosophy, Years, Sex,
Loneliness, Book, Profound, Lying, Phones, Littles, Art, Mean, Calling,
Numbers, Long*

People have been modeling their lives after films for years, but the medium is somehow unsuited to moral lessons, cautionary tales or polemics of any kind.

~Renata Adler

Idle people are often bored and bored people, unless they sleep a lot, are cruel. It is not accident that boredom and cruelty are great preoccupations in our time.

~Renata Adler

Bored people, unless they sleep a lot, are cruel.

~Renata Adler

Lyda was an exuberant, even a dramatic gardener.... She was always holding up a lettuce or a bunch of radishes with an air of resolute courage, as though she had shot them herself.

~Renata Adler

There follows a little obscenity here, a dash of philosophy there, considerable whining overall, and a modern satirical novel is born.

~Renata Adler

Fear . . . is forward. No one is afraid of yesterday.

~Renata Adler

The writer has a grudge against society, which he documents with accounts of unsatisfying sex, unrealized ambition, unmitigated loneliness, and a sense of local and global distress.

~Renata Adler

My dislike has no consequences. It accrues only in my mindâ€™like preserves on a shelf or guns zeroing in, and never firing.

~Renata Adler

No one ever confides a secret to one person only. No one destroys all copies of a document.

~Renata Adler

My capacity for having a good time exists. It surfaces, however, on odd occasions.

~Renata Adler

In the strange heat all litigation brings to bear on things, the very process of litigation fosters the most profound misunderstandings in the world.

~Renata Adler

I love the laconic. Clearly, I am not of their number.

~Renata Adler

The whole magic of a plot requires that somebody be impeded from getting something over with.

~Renata Adler

Nothing defines the quality of life in a community more clearly than people who regard themselves, or whom the consensus chooses to regard, as mentally unwell.

~Renata Adler

Do you realize how angry you sound?â€• must be one of the most infuriating questions in the language.

~Renata Adler

Sanity ... is the most profound moral option of our time.

~Renata Adler

Nice criticism is good when it tells you something. A lot of negative "criticism" isn't criticism at all: it's just nasty, "writerly" clichÃ© and

invective.

~Renata Adler

It is always self-defeating to pretend to the style of a generation younger than your own; it simply erases your own experience in history.

~Renata Adler

Things have changed very much, several times, since I grew up, and, like everyone in New York except the intellectuals, I have led several lives and I still lead some of them.

~Renata Adler

There are times when every act, no matter how private and unconscious, becomes political.

~Renata Adler

The style of flirtation specific to classrooms was of service to the students all their lives.

~Renata Adler

Did I throw the most important thing perhaps, by accident, away?

~Renata Adler

There are so many different types of writers. It's just sheer coincidence that they're all called writers.

~Renata Adler

Writing about writing is a bit like talking about a conversation you are having; it tends to obscure desperation about where the next word is coming from.

~Renata Adler

A favorite strategy was the paragraph-terminating: Right? Followed

immediately by Wrong. This linear invitation to a mugging was considered a strategy of wit.

~Renata Adler

Hardly anyone about whom I deeply care at all resembles anyone else I have ever met, or heard of, or read about in literature.

~Renata Adler

If you once cede to the Court the power to decide elections, let alone even the power to halt counting of the votes, then you have ceded it everything.

~Renata Adler

the time for prizes and competitions at art festivals is over. Competition is too closely tied to values that are alien to the arts.

~Renata Adler

Most movies are not very good. Most people know it and like to see them anyway.

~Renata Adler

Self-pity is just sadness, I think, in the pejorative.

~Renata Adler

Moral self-infatuation has its own corruptions, after all. With time, almost every other principle of the magazine acquired an ironic echo, a sort of cackling aftermath.

~Renata Adler

There is a difference, of course, between real sentiment and the trash of shared experience.

~Renata Adler

I took a little celebrational nap.

~Renata Adler

The radical intelligence in the moderate position is the only place where the center holds. Or so it seems.

~Renata Adler

Being neurotic seemed to be a kind of wild card, an all-purpose explanation.

~Renata Adler

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