

Rex Stout Quotes

*Men, Book, Thinking, Stories, Writing, Two, Believe, Women, Mean, Detectives,
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Home*

[A] pessimist gets nothing but pleasant surprises, an optimist nothing but unpleasant.

~Rex Stout

The only thing I want is something I can't have; and that is to know if, 100 years from now, people will still buy my books.

~Rex Stout

I have a strong moral sense - by my standards.

~Rex Stout

Nothing is more admirable than the fortitude with which millionaires tolerate the disadvantages of their wealth.

~Rex Stout

Measure your minds height by the shadow it casts.

~Rex Stout

Being broke is not a disgrace, it is only a catastrophe.

~Rex Stout

Sarcasm is not the rapier of wit its wielders seem to believe it to be, but merely a club: it may, by dint of brute force, occasionally raise bruises, but it never cuts or pierces.

~Rex Stout

Every Sherlock Holmes story has at least one marvelous scene.

~Rex Stout

I don't approve of open fires. You can't think, or talk or even make love in front of a fireplace. All you can do is stare at it.

~Rex Stout

The more you put in your brain, the more it will hold - if you have one.

~Rex Stout

Everything in a story should be credible.

~Rex Stout

The only two kinds of books could earn an American writer a living are cookbooks and detective novels.

~Rex Stout

A guest is a jewel on the cushion of hospitality

~Rex Stout

To read of a detective's daring finesse or ingenious stratagem is a rare joy.

~Rex Stout

As a professional writer of detective stories, I string along with the ballplayers. I love a ball game.

~Rex Stout

I try to know what I need to know. I make sure to know what I want to know. (Nero Wolfe)

~Rex Stout

Only fools and philosophers waste time on the unknowable.

~Rex Stout

A hole in the ice is dangerous only to those who go skating.

~Rex Stout

The Glass Key is better than anything Hemingway ever wrote

~Rex Stout

The trouble with an alarm clock is that what seems sensible when you

set it seems absurd when it goes off

~Rex Stout

Of course the modern detective story puts off its best tricks till the last, but Doyle always put his best tricks first and that's why they're still the best ones.

~Rex Stout

I love to make a mistake. It is my only assurance that I cannot reasonably be expected to assume the responsibility of omniscience.

~Rex Stout

The fricassee with dumplings is made by a Mrs. Miller whose husband has left her four times on account of her disposition and returned four times on account of her cooking.

~Rex Stout

It is always wiser, where there is a choice, to trust inertia. It is the greatest force in the world.

~Rex Stout

God made you and me, in certain respects, quite unequal, and it would be futile to try any interference with His arrangements.

~Rex Stout

MY rule is never to be rude to anyone unless you mean it.

~Rex Stout

One of the hardest things to believe is that anyone will abandon the effort to escape a charge of murder. It is extremely important to suspend disbelief on that. If you don't, the story is spoiled.

~Rex Stout

We are all vainer of our luck than of our merits.

~Rex Stout

Hemingway never grew out of adolescence. His scope and depth stayed shallow because he had no idea what women are for.

~Rex Stout

There are two kinds of characters in all fiction, the born and the synthetic. If the writer has to ask himself questions - is he tall, is he short? - he had better quit.

~Rex Stout

To say that a man is a reasoning animal is a very different thing than to say that most of man's decisions are based on his rational process. That I don't believe at all.

~Rex Stout

A character who is thought-out is not born, he or she is contrived. A born character is round, a thought-out character is flat.

~Rex Stout

The requisitions of the income tax have added greatly to the attractions of mercenary crime.

~Rex Stout

The incredible thing happens at the beginning of the story always, you notice, not the end. A Sherlock Holmes story is never a trick story.

~Rex Stout

Subtlety chases the obvious up a never-ending spiral and never quite catches it.

~Rex Stout

Genius is fine for the ignition spark, but to get there someone has to see that the radiator doesn't leak and no tire is flat.

~Rex Stout

What the tongue has promised, the body must submit to.

~Rex Stout

I have never regarded myself as this or that. I have been too busy being myself to bother about regarding myself.

~Rex Stout

What good is an obscenity trial except to popularize literature?

~Rex Stout

There are two kinds of statistics, the kind you look up and the kind you make up.

~Rex Stout

There's nothing as safe as ignorance or as dangerous.

~Rex Stout

Sometimes it's things that take the joy out of life, like a blowout when you're hitting sixty or a button coming off of a shirt when you're in a hurry, but usually it's people.

~Rex Stout

I like to walk around Manhattan, catching glimpses of its wild life, the pigeons and cats and girls.

~Rex Stout

There are only two kinds of books which you can write and be pretty sure you're going to make a living Â— cook books and detective stories.

~Rex Stout

Women don't require motives that are comprehensible to my intellectual

processes.

~Rex Stout

I think one or two of the later Holmes stories are among the best.

~Rex Stout

As I understand it, a born executive is a guy who, when anything difficult or unexpected happens, yells for somebody to come and help him.

~Rex Stout

A schedule broken at will becomes a mere procession of vagaries.

~Rex Stout

I understand the technique of eccentricity; it would be futile for a man to labor at establishing a reputation for oddity if he were ready at the slightest provocation to revert to normal action.

~Rex Stout

Afraid? I can dodge folly without backing into fear.

~Rex Stout

Dignities are like faces; no two are the same.

~Rex Stout

As between the intolerable and the merely distasteful, I must choose the latter.

~Rex Stout

Opinions, from experts, cost money.

~Rex Stout

The constant petty behests of life permit few opportunities for major satisfactions, and when one is offered it should be seized.

~Rex Stout

There is only one object on earth that frightens me: a physicist working on a new trick.

~Rex Stout

Everyone has something they don't want anyone to see; that is one of the functions of a home, to provide a spot to keep such things.

~Rex Stout

Labels are for the things men make, not for men. The most primitive man is too complex to be labeled.

~Rex Stout

I don't answer questions containing two or more unsupported assumptions.

~Rex Stout

A man may debar nonsense from his library of reason, but not from the arena of his impulses.

~Rex Stout

There are damn few great writers and I'm not one of them. While I could afford to I played with words. When I could no longer afford that I wrote for money.

~Rex Stout

You can't dance cheerfully. Dancing is too important. It can be wild or solemn or gay or lewd or art for art's sake, but it can't be cheerful.

~Rex Stout

I still can't decide which is more fun - reading or writing.

~Rex Stout

In a world that operates largely at random, coincidences are to be expected, but any one of them must always be mistrusted.

~Rex Stout

I will ride my luck on occasion, but I like to pick the occasion.

~Rex Stout

War doesn't mature men; it merely pickles them in the brine of disgust and dread.

~Rex Stout

The brain can be hoodwinked but not the stomach.

~Rex Stout

No man should tell a lie unless he is shrewd enough to recognize the time for renouncing it, if and when it comes, and knows how to renounce it gracefully.

~Rex Stout

Man's brain, enlarged fortuitously, invented words in an ambitious attempt to learn how to think, only to have them usurped by his emotions. But we still try.

~Rex Stout

I cannot agree that mountain climbing is merely one manifestation of man's spiritual aspirations. I think instead it is a hysterical paroxysm of his infantile vanity.

~Rex Stout

No man with any sense assumes that a woman's words mean to her exactly what they mean to him.

~Rex Stout

No man was ever taken to hell by a woman unless he already had a

ticket in his pocket.

~Rex Stout

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