

Richard Yates

Quotes

*People, Men, Thinking, Jobs, Dying, Might, Night, Honesty, Wanted, Believe,
Grief, Knowing, Lying, Writing, World, Benefits, Hard Work, Comfort, Order,
Reality*

It's a disease. Nobody thinks or feels or cares any more; nobody gets excited or believes in anything except their own comfortable little God damn mediocrity.

~Richard Yates

if you don't try at anything, you can't fail! it takes back bone to lead the life you want

~Richard Yates

And do you know a funny thing? I'm almost fifty years old and I've never understood anything in my whole life.

~Richard Yates

Why did everything always change when all you wanted, all you had ever humbly asked of whatever God there might be, was that certain things be allowed to stay the same?

~Richard Yates

if you wanted to do something absolutely honest, something true, it always turned out to be a thing that had to be done alone.

~Richard Yates

He couldn't even tell whether he was angry or contrite, whether it was forgiveness he wanted or the power to forgive.

~Richard Yates

No one forgets the truth; they just get better at lying.

~Richard Yates

Do you know what the definition of insane is? Yes. It's the inability to relate to another human being. It's the inability to love.

~Richard Yates

You're painfully alive in a drugged and dying culture.

~Richard Yates

Never say anything that doesn't improve on silence.

~Richard Yates

If my work has a theme, I suspect it is a simple one: that most human beings are inescapably alone, and therein lies their tragedy.

~Richard Yates

She just happened to feel like it. Wasn't that after all, the only reason there was? Had she ever had a less selfish, more complicated reason for doing anything in her life?

~Richard Yates

Being alone has nothing to do with how many people are around.

~Richard Yates

Our ability to measure and apportion time affords an almost endless source of comfort.

~Richard Yates

Can you really think artists and writers are the only people entitled to lives of their own?

~Richard Yates

I'm only interested in stories that are about the crushing of the human heart.

~Richard Yates

Dying for love might be pitiable, but it wasn't much different, finally, from any other kind of dying.

~Richard Yates

Hopeless emptiness. Now you've said it. Plenty of people are onto the

emptiness, but it takes real guts to see the hopelessness.

~Richard Yates

A man could rant and smash and grapple with the State Police, and still the sprinklers whirled at dusk on every lawn and the television droned in every living room.

~Richard Yates

In avoiding specific goals he had avoided specific limitations. For the time being the world, life itself, could be his chosen field.

~Richard Yates

The hell with "love" anyway, and with every other phony, time-wasting, half-assed emotion in the world.

~Richard Yates

Anybody's marriage might benefit from an occasional embargo on talk.

~Richard Yates

There's never been anything funny about a woman dying for love.

~Richard Yates

People did change, and a change could be a bloom as well as a withering.

~Richard Yates

Acting might bring on emotional exhaustion, but writing tired your brains out. Writing led to depression and insomnia and walking around all day with a haggard look.

~Richard Yates

God knows there certainly ought to be a window around here somewhere, for all of us.

~Richard Yates

Every man has a right to keep his own sentiments if he pleases.

~Richard Yates

Remember what Anatole France said about the dog masturbating on your leg--'Sure, it's honest, but who needs it?

~Richard Yates

If you haven't written a novel by the time you're forty you never will!

~Richard Yates

Hard work, is the best medicine yet devised for all the ills of man- and of woman.

~Richard Yates

He had won but he didn't feel like a winner.

~Richard Yates

Know what we did, Lucy? You and me? We spent our whole lives yearning. Isn't that the God damndest thing?

~Richard Yates

...his job was the very least important part of his life, never to be mentioned except in irony.

~Richard Yates

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