

S. J. Perelman

Quotes

*Funny, Writing, Humor, Too Much, Love, Ponies, Age, Food, Sweet, Editors,
Teeth, Sunday, August, Believer, Facts, Missing, Forgiving, Meals, Summer,
Evening*

Love is not the dying moan of a distant violin - it's the triumphant twang of a bedspring.

~S. J. Perelman

The dubious privilege of a freelance writer is he's given the freedom to starve anywhere.

~S. J. Perelman

The main obligation is to amuse yourself.

~S. J. Perelman

I tried to resist his overtures, but he plied me with symphonies, quartets, chamber music, and cantatas.

~S. J. Perelman

There is such a thing as too much couth.

~S. J. Perelman

I have no truck with lettuce, cabbage, and similar chlorophyll. Any dietitian will tell you that a running foot of apple strudel contains four times the vitamins of a bushel of beans.

~S. J. Perelman

If, at the close of business each evening, I myself can understand what I've written, I feel the day hasn't been totally wasted.

~S. J. Perelman

English life, while very pleasant, is rather bland. I expected kindness and gentility and I found it, but there is such a thing as too much couth.

~S. J. Perelman

Where would the Rockefellers be today if old John D. had gone on selling short-weight kerosene ... to widows and orphans instead of wisely deciding to mulct the whole country.

~S. J. Perelman

I don't know where we're going or how we'll get there, but when we get there we'll be there - and that's something, even if it's nothing.

~S. J. Perelman

I loathe writing. On the other hand I'm a great believer in money.

~S. J. Perelman

I cannot recall a more engaging passage in fiction, and I've been trying for almost eighteen seconds.

~S. J. Perelman

"In France," Marcel said with wintry dignity, "accidents occur in the bedroom, not the kitchen."

~S. J. Perelman

To err is human, to forgive supine.

~S. J. Perelman

Santa Barbara people are conservative-not like in L.A., where everybody wears rhinestones on their glasses to show that they own an airplane factory.

~S. J. Perelman

The fact is that all of us have only one personality, and we wring it out like a dishtowel. You are what you are.

~S. J. Perelman

I'm half Scotch-Irish on both sides, and when I lose my temper-brother, I go.

~S. J. Perelman

I'll dispose of my teeth as I see fit, and after they've gone, I'll get along.

I started off living on gruel, and by God, I can always go back to it again.

~S. J. Perelman

Fate was dealing from the bottom of the deck.

~S. J. Perelman

He bit his lip in a manner which immediately awakened my maternal sympathy, and I helped him bite it.

~S. J. Perelman

Tomatoes and squash never fail to reach maturity. You can spray them with acid, beat them with sticks and burn them; they love it.

~S. J. Perelman

This medal (the National Book Award) together with my American Express card, will identify me worldwide ... except at Bloomingdale's.

~S. J. Perelman

All right, so call me Miss Cliche of 1960, but the thing about the married ones that always spooks me is how sweet and attentive they are at first, when they're on the prowl.

~S. J. Perelman

A farm is an irregular patch of nettles bounded by short-term notes, containing a fool and his wife who didn't know enough to stay in the city.

~S. J. Perelman

FREEDLEY: Will I feel better after I take it? DR. FITCH (coldly): I, am a physician, Freedley, not an astrologer. If you want a horoscope, there's a gypsy tearoom over on Lexington Avenue.

~S. J. Perelman

I found the pearl of the Orient slightly less exciting than a rainy Sunday evening in Rochester.

~S. J. Perelman

Only the scenario writers are exempt. These are tied between the tails of two spirited Caucasian ponies, which are then driven off in opposite directions. This custom is called a conference.

~S. J. Perelman

You'll have to leave my meals on a tray outside the door because I'll be working pretty late on the secret of making myself invisible, which may take me almost until eleven o'clock.

~S. J. Perelman

In my more pompous moments I like to think of myself as a writer rather than a humorist, but I suppose that's merely the vanity of advancing age.

~S. J. Perelman

We old roosters must be cautious. Don't try to outwit your arteries.

~S. J. Perelman

Nature, it appears, has been rather more bountiful to Paul's body and purse than to his intellect; above the ears, speaking bluntly, the boy is strictly tapioca.

~S. J. Perelman

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