

Sarah Vowell

Quotes

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Like Lincoln, I would like to believe the ballot is stronger than the bullet. Then again, he said that before he got shot.

~Sarah Vowell

Being a nerd, which is to say going too far and caring too much about a subject, is the best way to make friends I know.

~Sarah Vowell

The modern mocha is a bittersweet concoction of imperialism, genocide, invention, and consumerism served with whipped cream on top

~Sarah Vowell

My lips are chapped from the winds of change.

~Sarah Vowell

While I gave up God a long time ago, I never shook the habit of wanting to believe in something. So I replaced my creed of everlasting life with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

~Sarah Vowell

The whole point of Louis Armstrong is that no one can really figure him out. There was a while where I thought you could try.

~Sarah Vowell

What are you hiding? No one ever asks that.

~Sarah Vowell

History is one war after another with a bunch of murders and natural disasters in between.

~Sarah Vowell

I no longer drink nearly as much as I used to but, still, my motto is Sine coffea nihil sum. Without coffee, I'm nothing.

~Sarah Vowell

You know, it's always good to have a synonym just for variety.

~Sarah Vowell

The only thing more dangerous than an idea is a belief. And by dangerous I don't mean thought-provoking. I mean: might get people killed.

~Sarah Vowell

The only people who know about me are people who would know about me.

~Sarah Vowell

American history is a quagmire, and the more one knows, the quaggier the mire gets.

~Sarah Vowell

We are flawed creatures, all of us. Some of us think that means we should fix our flaws. But get rid of my flaws and there would be no one left.

~Sarah Vowell

Radio is the playground of coincidence.

~Sarah Vowell

The only thing more dangerous than an idea is a belief.

~Sarah Vowell

Oh my dear, idealists are the cruelest monsters of them all.

~Sarah Vowell

I probably am a cranky writer, but I am actually a fairly nice, normal person. Since I'm a grouchy writer, of course I have friends whose

books are doing way better than mine.

~Sarah Vowell

Assassins and presidents invite the same basic question: Just who do you think you are?

~Sarah Vowell

A couple of times he called the second he'd finished reading a novel and just had to tell me about it, and I know it sounds hokey and librarianish to say so, but I just swooned when he did that.

~Sarah Vowell

I'm a big fan of editing and keeping only the interesting bits in.

~Sarah Vowell

No cowboys for Canada. Canada got Mounties instead - Dudley Do-Right, not John Wayne. It's a mind-set of "Here I come to save the day" versus "Yippee-ki-yay, motherfucker."

~Sarah Vowell

The true American patriot is by definition skeptical of the government.

~Sarah Vowell

I still believe in public radio's potential. Because it's the one mass medium that's still crafted almost entirely by true believers.

~Sarah Vowell

The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Civil War-when I really think about them they all seem about as likely as the parting of the Red Sea.

~Sarah Vowell

You know you've reached a new plateau of group mediocrity when even a Canadian is alarmed by your lack of individuality.

~Sarah Vowell

I hated the lost colony; in second grade, we were doing American History, and they said, We don't know what happened to them. That drove me nuts. That lost colony drove me crazy.

~Sarah Vowell

Part of the success of This American Life, I think, is due to the fact that none of us sound like we should be on the radio. We don't sound professional; we sound like people you would know.

~Sarah Vowell

Most people don't like to talk about violent historical death.

~Sarah Vowell

Relics are treasured as something close to the divine.

~Sarah Vowell

One night last summer, all the killers in my head assembled on a stage in Massachusetts to sing show tunes.

~Sarah Vowell

Robert Todd Lincoln, a.k.a. Jinxy McDeath.

~Sarah Vowell

My ideal picture of citizenship will always be an argument, not a sing-along.

~Sarah Vowell

Along with voting, jury duty, and paying taxes, goofing off is one of the central obligations of American citizenship.

~Sarah Vowell

Buffy's high school was built on top of a vortex of evil, the Hellmouth.

And whose wasn't?

~Sarah Vowell

Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves, Robert Lincoln bought a nice ski lodge.

~Sarah Vowell

Behind every bad law, a deep fear.

~Sarah Vowell

History is full of really good stories. That's the main reason I got into this racket: I want to make the argument that history is interesting.

~Sarah Vowell

There are two kinds of people in the world: the kind who alphabetize their record collections, and the kind who don't.

~Sarah Vowell

Winthrop and his shipmates and their children and their children's children just wrote their own books and pretty much kept their noses in them up until the day God created the Red Sox.

~Sarah Vowell

Jesus and Lincoln, Moses and Jefferson can seem so long gone, so unbelievable, so dead.

~Sarah Vowell

Even writers need relief from words.

~Sarah Vowell

In death, you get upgraded into a saint no matter how much people hated you in life.

~Sarah Vowell

When I think about my relationship with America, I feel like a battered wife: Yeah, he knocks me around a lot, but boy, he sure can dance.

~Sarah Vowell

No one I know actually reads what I write, so thank heavens for you strangers.

~Sarah Vowell

Owen is the most Hitchcockian preschooler I ever met. He's three. He knows maybe ninety word and one of them is 'crypt'?

~Sarah Vowell

Why is America the last best hope of Earth? What if it's Liechtenstein? Or, worse, Canada?

~Sarah Vowell

If I looked in the mirror someday and saw no dark circles under my eyes, I would probably look better. I just wouldn't look like me.

~Sarah Vowell

My audience is going to die before I do.

~Sarah Vowell

I'm not really the scented envelope kid of girl, preferring instead to send yellow Jiffy-lite mailers packed with whatever song is on my mind.

~Sarah Vowell

I get younger people who watch Conan or The Daily Show, but before that it was mostly people who knew me from public radio. Those people are kind of old.

~Sarah Vowell

That's what we Americans do when we find a place that's really special. We go there and act exactly like ourselves. And we are a bunch of

fun-loving dopes.

~Sarah Vowell

I guess if I had to pick a spiritual figurehead to possess the deed to the entirety of Earth, I'd go with Buddha, but only because he wouldn't want it.

~Sarah Vowell

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