

Shirley Hazzard Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Imagination, Needs, Wish, Book, People, Long, Tragedy,
Physical Beauty, Democracy, Men, Plot, Next, Beauty, Commitment, Religious,
Lying, Support, Happens*

It's nervous work. The state you need to write in is the state that others are paying large sums of money to get rid of.

~Shirley Hazzard

Poetry has been the longest pleasure of my life.

~Shirley Hazzard

The tragedy is not that love doesn't last. The tragedy is the love that lasts.

~Shirley Hazzard

I think that one is constantly startled by the things that appear before you on the page when you're writing.

~Shirley Hazzard

Sometimes, surely, truth is closer to imagination or to intelligence, to love than to fact? To be accurate is not to be right.

~Shirley Hazzard

Americans' great and secret fear is that America may turn out to be a phenomenon rather than a civilization.

~Shirley Hazzard

There is balance in life, but not fairness.

~Shirley Hazzard

It is the impulse of our century, with its nearly religious belief in magnitude, to fling an institution into every void.

~Shirley Hazzard

In thoughts one keeps a reserve of hope, in spite of everything. You cannot say good-bye in imagination. That is something you can only do in actuality.

~Shirley Hazzard

Human beings need unhappiness at least as much as they need happiness.

~Shirley Hazzard

Great literature is like moral leadership; everyone deplores the lack of it, but there is a tendency to prefer it from the safely dead.

~Shirley Hazzard

In England, life is a long process of composing oneself.

~Shirley Hazzard

Perhaps if we lived with less physical beauty we would develop our true natures more.

~Shirley Hazzard

When you realize someone is trying to hurt you, it hurts less." "Unless you love them.

~Shirley Hazzard

The sweetness that all longed for night and day. Some tragedy might be idly guessed at-loss or illness. She had the luminosity of those about to die.

~Shirley Hazzard

Madness might sometimes give access to a kind of knowledge. But was not a guarantee.

~Shirley Hazzard

For most people it's easier to support an eminent person in deserved disgrace than an obscure one who has been wronged.

~Shirley Hazzard

When people say of their tragedies, 'I don't often think of it now,' what they mean is it has entered permanently into their thoughts, and colors

everything.

~Shirley Hazzard

Marriage is like democracy - it doesn't really work, but it's all we've been able to come up with.

~Shirley Hazzard

What you fear most will happen to you - that is the law.

~Shirley Hazzard

... one doesn't really profit from experience; one merely learns to predict the next mistake.

~Shirley Hazzard

I wasn't convinced a shop girl would know the word 'Oedipal.

~Shirley Hazzard

I never had, or wished for, power over you. That isn't true, of course. I wanted the greatest power of all. but not advantage, or authority.

~Shirley Hazzard

Nothing creates such untruth in you as the wish to please.

~Shirley Hazzard

I have a superstition that if I talk about plot, it's like letting sand out of a hole in the bottom of a bag.

~Shirley Hazzard

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