

Sinclair Lewis

Quotes

*Men, Country, Thinking, People, Writing, America, Facts, Art, Baseball, Mind,
Believe, War, Literature, Contentment, Flags, Money, Winter, Long, Girl,
Tragedy*

When fascism comes to the United States it will be wrapped in the American flag and will claim the name of 100-percent Americanism

~Sinclair Lewis

She did her work with the thoroughness of a mind which reveres details and never quite understands them.

~Sinclair Lewis

It is impossible to discourage the real writers - they don't give a damn what you say, they're going to write.

~Sinclair Lewis

Intellectually I know that America is no better than any other country; emotionally I know she is better than every other country.

~Sinclair Lewis

Being a man given to oratory and high principles, he enjoyed the sound of his own vocabulary and the warmth of his own virtue.

~Sinclair Lewis

The trouble with this country is that there are too many people going about saying, "The trouble with this country is...."

~Sinclair Lewis

Sleep with me sleep with my dogs-

~Sinclair Lewis

When facism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the American flag.

~Sinclair Lewis

I must say I'm not very fond of oratory that's so full of energy it hasn't any room for facts.

~Sinclair Lewis

There is no greater compliment to the Jews than the fact that the degree of their unpopularity is always the scientific measure of the cruelty and silliness of the regime under which they live.

~Sinclair Lewis

Every man is a king so long as he has someone to look down on.

~Sinclair Lewis

Men die, but the plutocracy is immortal; and it is necessary that fresh generations should be trained to its service.

~Sinclair Lewis

Fascism will come to America wrapped in a flag.

~Sinclair Lewis

Writers have a rare power not given to anyone else: we can bore people long after we are dead.

~Sinclair Lewis

Love is the one thing that can really sure-enough lighten all of life's dark clouds.

~Sinclair Lewis

Our American professors like their literature clear and cold and pure and very dead.

~Sinclair Lewis

It's one of our favorite American myths that broad plains necessarily make broad minds, and high mountains make high purpose.

~Sinclair Lewis

I can not understand why ministers presume to deliver sermons every week at appointed hours because it is humanly impossible for inspirations to come with clock-like regularity

~Sinclair Lewis

Winter is not a season, it's an occupation.

~Sinclair Lewis

Advertising is a valuable economic factor because it is the cheapest way of selling goods, particularly if the goods are worthless.

~Sinclair Lewis

Writing is just work-there's no secret. If you dictate or use a pen or type or write with your toes-it's still just work.

~Sinclair Lewis

He loved the people just as much as he feared and detested persons.

~Sinclair Lewis

To a true-blue professor of literature in an American university, literature is not something that a plain human being, living today, painfully sits down to produce. No; it is something dead.

~Sinclair Lewis

People read fiction for emotion-not information

~Sinclair Lewis

A man takes a drink, the drink takes another, and the drink takes the man.

~Sinclair Lewis

We'd get sick on too many cookies, but ever so much sicker on no cookies at all.

~Sinclair Lewis

The most important part of living is not the living but the pondering upon it.

~Sinclair Lewis

You," Said Dr. Yavitch, "are a middle-road liberal, and you haven't the slightest idea what you want. I, being a revolutionist, know exactly what I want -- and what I want now is a drink.

~Sinclair Lewis

The middle class, that prisoner of the barbarian 20th century.

~Sinclair Lewis

It has not yet been recorded that any human being has gained a very large or permanent contentment from meditation upon the fact that he is better off than others.

~Sinclair Lewis

When audiences come to see us authors lecture, it is largely in the hope that we'll be funnier to look at than to read.

~Sinclair Lewis

NOW is a fact that cannot be dodged.

~Sinclair Lewis

So much in a revolution is nothing but waiting.

~Sinclair Lewis

Curiously, neither God nor the devil may wear modern dress, but must retain Grecian vestments.

~Sinclair Lewis

On the whole, with scandalous exceptions, Democracy has given the ordinary worker more dignity than he ever had.

~Sinclair Lewis

Thus Carol hit upon the tragedy of old age, which is not that it is less

vigorous than youth, but that it is not needed by youth.

~Sinclair Lewis

It isn't what you earn but how spend it that fixes your class.

~Sinclair Lewis

Do you think it's so snobbish, to want to see something besides one's fellow citizens abroad?

~Sinclair Lewis

Every compulsion is put upon writers to become safe, polite, obedient, and sterile.

~Sinclair Lewis

You have more people that love you than you know.

~Sinclair Lewis

Damn the great executives, the men of measured merriment, damn the men with careful smiles, damn the men that run the shops, oh, damn their measured merriment.

~Sinclair Lewis

Pugnacity is a form of courage, but a very bad form.

~Sinclair Lewis

Funny how the world always praises its opera-singers so much and pays 'em so well and then starves its shoemakers, and yet it needs good shoes so much more than it needs opera--or war or fiction.

~Sinclair Lewis

Vast is the power of cities to reclaim the wanderer.

~Sinclair Lewis

She was snatched back from a dream of far countries, and found

herself on Main Street.

~Sinclair Lewis

I love America, but I don't like it.

~Sinclair Lewis

People will buy anything that is one to a customer.

~Sinclair Lewis

You're so earnest about morality that I hate to think how essentially immoral you must be underneath.

~Sinclair Lewis

There are two insults which no human being will endure: The assertion that he hasn't a sense of humor, and the doubly impertinent assertion that he has never known trouble.

~Sinclair Lewis

There are so many people in the world who are eager to do for you things that you do not wish done, provided only that you will do for them things that you don't wish to do.

~Sinclair Lewis

Paris is one of the largest, and certainly it is the pleasantest, of modern American cities.

~Sinclair Lewis

I have faith in Faith, I have reverence for all true Reverence.

~Sinclair Lewis

It might be the doing of Satan, in whom Aaron anxiously believed with all of his being except, perhaps, his mind.

~Sinclair Lewis

The one thing that can be more disconcerting than intelligent hatred is demanding love.

~Sinclair Lewis

Since dictating the Bible, and hiring a perfect race of ministers to explain it, God has never done much but creep around and try to catch us disobeying it.

~Sinclair Lewis

It is, I think, an error to believe that there is any need of religion to make life seem worth living.

~Sinclair Lewis

The Maker of the universe with stars a hundred thousand light-years apart was interested, furious, and very personal about it if a small boy played baseball on Sunday afternoon.

~Sinclair Lewis

When you think that most of us are doomed by divine grace to roast in hell, to say nothing of mortgages and hail and bad crops and extravagant womenfolks, 'tain't any laughing matter!

~Sinclair Lewis

If travel were so inspiring and informing a business ... then the wisest men in the world would be deck hands on tramp steamers.

~Sinclair Lewis

Think how much better it is to criticize conventional customs if you yourself live up to them, scrupulously.

~Sinclair Lewis

Don't be a writer. Writing is an escape from something. You be a scientist.

~Sinclair Lewis

Is it possible that nobody has ever known that there never has been a completely civilized man, and won't be for another thousand years?

~Sinclair Lewis

The game (baseball) was a custom of his clan, and it gave outlet for the homicidal and sides-taking instincts which Babbitt called "patriotism" and "love of sport."

~Sinclair Lewis

Fine, large, meaningless, general terms like romance and business can always be related. They take the place of thinking, and are highly useful to optimists and lecturers.

~Sinclair Lewis

What are these unheard of sins you condemn so much - and like so well?

~Sinclair Lewis

His name was George F. Babbitt, and . . . he was nimble in the calling of selling houses for more than people could afford to pay.

~Sinclair Lewis

Why is it that traveling Americans are always so dreadful?

~Sinclair Lewis

It is one of the major tragedies that nothing is more discomfiting than the hearty affection of the Old Friends who never were friends.

~Sinclair Lewis

Whatever the misery, he could not regain contentment with a world which, once doubted, became absurd.

~Sinclair Lewis

That nation is proudest and noblest and most exalted which has the

greatest number of really great men.

~Sinclair Lewis

Unhappy women are given to protecting their sensitiveness by cynical gossip, by whining, by high-church and new-thought religions, or by a fog of vagueness.

~Sinclair Lewis

There are dozens of young poets and fictioneers most of them a little insane in the tradition of James Joyce, who, however insane they may be, have refused to be genteel and traditional and dull.

~Sinclair Lewis

Winter is not a season in the North Middlewest; it is an industry.

~Sinclair Lewis

In fact, the whole thing about prohibition is this: it isn't the initial cost, it's the humidity.

~Sinclair Lewis

There was much conversation, most of which sounded like the rest of it.

~Sinclair Lewis

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