

Stendhal Quotes

*Men, Thinking, Love, Heart, Soul, Passion, People, Mind, Events, Writing,
Boredom, Character, Firsts, Years, Two, Art, Self, Fashion, Power, Women*

She had caprices of a marvellous unexpectedness, and how is any one to imitate a caprice?

~Stendhal

Pleasure is often spoiled by describing it.

~Stendhal

One can acquire everything in solitude except character.

~Stendhal

Mathematics allows for no hypocrisy and no vagueness.

~Stendhal

If you don't love me, it does not matter, anyway I can love for both of us.

~Stendhal

Who knows whether it is not true that phosphorus and mind are not the same thing?

~Stendhal

The shepherd always tries to persuade the sheep that their interests and his own are the same.

~Stendhal

A very small degree of hope is sufficient to cause the birth of love.

~Stendhal

A good book is an event in my life.

~Stendhal

A novel is like a bow, and the violin that produces the sound is the reader's soul.

~Stendhal

Love is like fever; it comes and goes without the will having any part of the process.

~Stendhal

The idea which tyrants find most useful is the idea of God.

~Stendhal

A woman of generous character will sacrifice her life a thousand times over for her lover, but will break with him for ever over a question of pride.

~Stendhal

God's only excuse is that he does not exist.

~Stendhal

Life is very short, and it ought not to be spent crawling at the feet of miserable scoundrels.

~Stendhal

Only great minds can afford a simple style.

~Stendhal

To describe happiness is to diminish it.

~Stendhal

All religions are founded on the fear of the many and the cleverness of the few.

~Stendhal

On a cold winter morning a cigar fortifies the soul.

~Stendhal

A novel is a mirror which passes over a highway. Sometimes it reflects to your eyes the blue of the skies, at others the churned-up mud of the

road.

~Stendhal

I love her beauty, but I fear her mind.

~Stendhal

Love has always been the most important business in my life; I should say the only one.

~Stendhal

Never had he found himself so close to those terrible weapons of feminine artillery.

~Stendhal

The sight of anything extremely beautiful, in nature or in art, brings back the memory of what one loves, with the speed of lightning.

~Stendhal

Beauty is nothing other than the promise of happiness.

~Stendhal

Every true passion thinks only of itself.

~Stendhal

Love is like a fever which comes and goes quite independently of the will. ... there are no age limits for love.

~Stendhal

People happy in love have an air of intensity.

~Stendhal

In love, unlike most other passions, the recollection of what you have had and lost is always better than what you can hope for in the future.

~Stendhal

Life is too short, and the time we waste in yawning never can be regained.

~Stendhal

In our calling, we have to choose; we must make our fortune either in this world or in the next, there is no middle way.

~Stendhal

Almost all our misfortunes in life come from the wrong notions we have about the things that happen to us.

~Stendhal

The man of genius is he and he alone who finds such joy in his art that he will work at it come hell or high water.

~Stendhal

This is the curse of our age, even the strangest aberrations are no cure for boredom.

~Stendhal

If you want to be witty, work on your character and say what you think on every occasion.

~Stendhal

The pleasures of love are always in proportion to our fears.

~Stendhal

Logic is neither an art nor a science but a dodge.

~Stendhal

To be loved at first sight, a man should have at the same time something to respect and something to pity in his face.

~Stendhal

Power, after love, is the first source of happiness.

~Stendhal

The worst of prison life, he thought, was not being able to close his door.

~Stendhal

Women prefer emotions to reasoning.

~Stendhal

The more one pleases everybody, the less one pleases profoundly.

~Stendhal

Why not make an end of it all?... My life is a succession of griefs and bitter feelings.... What is death?... A very small matter, when all is said; only a fool would be concerned about it.

~Stendhal

The first qualification for a historian is to have no ability to invent.

~Stendhal

Politics in a literary work, is like a gun shot in the middle of a concert, something vulgar, and however, something which is impossible to ignore.

~Stendhal

A forty-year-old woman is only something to men who have loved her in her youth.

~Stendhal

When a man leaves his mistress, he runs the risk of being betrayed two or three times daily.

~Stendhal

Friendship has its illusions no less than love.

~Stendhal

Faith, I am no such fool; everyone for himself in this desert of selfishness which is called life.

~Stendhal

Love is a well from which we can drink only as much as we have put in, and the stars that shine from it are only our eyes looking in.

~Stendhal

Any man who talks about his love affairs thereby proves he is ignorant of love and is moved only by vanity.

~Stendhal

Perhaps men who cannot love passionately are those who feel the effect of beauty most keenly; at any rate this is the strongest impression women can make on them.

~Stendhal

In matters of sentiment, the public has very crude ideas; and the most shocking fault of women is that they make the public the supreme judge of their lives.

~Stendhal

Prudery is a kind of avarice, the worst of all.

~Stendhal

Our true passions are selfish.

~Stendhal

An English traveller relates how he lived upon intimate terms with a tiger; he had reared it and used to play with it, but always kept a loaded pistol on the table.

~Stendhal

People who have been made to suffer by certain things cannot be reminded of them without a horror which paralyses every other pleasure, even that to be found in reading a story.

~Stendhal

What is really beautiful must always be true.

~Stendhal

The only unhappiness is a life of boredom.

~Stendhal

I do not feel I have wisdom enough yet to love what is ugly.

~Stendhal

Far less envy in America than in France.

~Stendhal

To seem sorrowful is not in good taste: You're supposed to seem bored.

~Stendhal

Nothing is so hideous as an obsolete fashion.

~Stendhal

Man is not free to refuse to do the thing which gives him more pleasure than any other conceivable action.

~Stendhal

It is difficult to escape from the prevailing disease of one's generation.

~Stendhal

A wise woman never yields by appointment. It should always be an

unforeseen happiness.

~Stendhal

There are as many styles of beauty as there are visions of happiness.

~Stendhal

When you want to court a woman, court her sister first

~Stendhal

One-half, the finest half, of life is hidden from the man who does not love with passion.

~Stendhal

I think no woman I have had ever gave me so sweet a moment, or at so light a price, as the moment I owe to a newly heard musical phrase.

~Stendhal

True love makes the thought of death frequent, easy, without terrors; it merely becomes the standard of comparison, the price one would pay for many things.

~Stendhal

A novel is a mirror carried along a main road.

~Stendhal

It is better to have a prosaic husband and to take a romantic lover.

~Stendhal

It is from cowardice and not from want of enlightenment that we do not read in our own hearts.

~Stendhal

If you think of paying court to the men in power, your eternal ruin is assured.

~Stendhal

A very small matter, when all is said; only a fool would be concerned about it.

~Stendhal

It is the nobility of their style which will make our writers of 1840 unreadable forty years from now.

~Stendhal

War was then no longer this noble and unified outburst of souls in love with glory that he had imagined from Napoleon's proclamations.

~Stendhal

The French are the wittiest, the most charming, and up to the present, at all events, the least musical race on Earth.

~Stendhal

Beauty is nothing but a promise of happiness.

~Stendhal

But, if I sample this pleasure so prudently and circumspectly, it will no longer be a pleasure.

~Stendhal

Women are always eagerly on the lookout for any emotion.

~Stendhal

The great majority of men, especially in France, both desire and possess a fashionable woman, much in the way one might own a fine horse - as a luxury befitting a young man.

~Stendhal

It is not enough for a landscape to be interesting in itself. Eventually

there must be a moral and historic interest.

~Stendhal

The more a race is governed by its passions, the less it has acquired the habit of cautious and reasoned argument, the more intense will be its love of music.

~Stendhal

The difference breeds hatred.

~Stendhal

Spring appears and we are once more children.

~Stendhal

I have a bad memory for facts.

~Stendhal

I see but one rule: to be clear. If I am not clear, all my world crumbles to nothing.

~Stendhal

The tyranny of public opinion (and what an opinion!) is as fatuous in the small towns of France as it is in the United States of America.

~Stendhal

I see but one rule: to be clear.

~Stendhal

I used to think of deathlike I suppose soldiers think of it: it was a possible thing that I could well avoid by my skill.

~Stendhal

When intimacy followed love in Italy there were no longer any vain pretensions between two lovers.

~Stendhal

The Russians imitate French ways, but always at a distance of fifty years.

~Stendhal

Indeed, man has two different beings inside him. What devil thought of that malicious touch?

~Stendhal

I call "crystallization" that action of the mind that discovers fresh perfections in its beloved at every turn of events.

~Stendhal

This religion takes away the courage of thinking of unusual things and prohibits self-examination above all as the most egregious of sins.... It is one step away from protestantism.

~Stendhal

A man who is half an idiot, but who keeps a sharp lookout and acts prudently all his life, often enjoys the pleasure of triumphing over men of more imagination than he

~Stendhal

Signs cannot be represented, in a spy's report, so damningly as words.

~Stendhal

Great ladies are no more spiteful than the average rich woman; but one acquires in their society a greater susceptibility, and feels more profoundly and more irremediably, their unpleasant remarks.

~Stendhal

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