

Stevie Smith

Quotes

*People, May, Thinking, Men, Night, Strong, Lying, Heart, Hands, Pain, Running,
Lonely, Flower, Cold, Trying, Cat, Fancy, Way, Animal, Muse*

Nothing is more wistful than the scent of lilac, nor more robust than its woody stalk, for we must remember that it is a tree as well as a flower, we must try not to forget this.

~Stevie Smith

I'm alive today, therefore I'm just as much a part of our time as everybody else. The times will just have to enlarge themselves to make room for me, won't they, and for everybody else.

~Stevie Smith

Who is this that comes in grandeur, coming from the blazing East? This is he we had not thought of, this is he the airy Christ.

~Stevie Smith

Unpopular, lonely and loving, Elinor need not trouble, For if she were not so loving, She would not be so miserable.

~Stevie Smith

All poetry has to do is to make a strong communication. All the poet has to do is listen. The poet is not an important fellow. There will also be another poet.

~Stevie Smith

Life may be treacherous, but you can always depend on death.

~Stevie Smith

The human creature is alone in his carapace. Poetry is a strong way out.

~Stevie Smith

The sea was angry that day my friend, like an old man trying to send back soup at a deli.

~Stevie Smith

Why does my muse only speak when she is unhnappy? She does not, I only listen when I am unhappy.

~Stevie Smith

I'll have your heart, if not by gift my knife Shall carve it out. I'll have your heart, your life.

~Stevie Smith

People who are always praising the past And especially the time of faith as best Ought to go and live in the Middle Ages And be burnt at the stake as witches and sages.

~Stevie Smith

The religion of Christianity Is mixed of sweetness and cruelty Reject this Sweetness, for she wears A smoky dress out of hell fires.

~Stevie Smith

My Muse sits forlorn She wishes she had not been born She sits in the cold No word she says is ever told.

~Stevie Smith

I may be smelly and I may be old, Rough in my pebbles, reedy in my pools, But where my fish float by I bless their swimming, And I like the people to bathe in me especially women.

~Stevie Smith

A man may forgive many wrongs, but he cannot easily forgive anyone who makes it plain that his conversation is tedious.

~Stevie Smith

Oh, no no no, it was too cold always (Still the dead one lay moaning) I was much too far out all my life And not waving but drowning.

~Stevie Smith

If there wasn't death, I think you couldn't go on.

~Stevie Smith

Fourteen-year-old, why must you giggle and dote, Fourteen-year-old, why are you such a goat? I'm fourteen years old, that is the reason, I giggle and dote in season.

~Stevie Smith

O happy dogs of England, Bark well at errand boys, If you lived anywhere else, You would not be allowed to make such an infernal noise.

~Stevie Smith

You must have some money if you are going to live simply. It need not be much, but you must have some.

~Stevie Smith

I like food, I like stripping vegetables of their skins, I like to have a slim young parsnip under my knife.

~Stevie Smith

The world is come upon me, I used to keep it a long way off, But now I have been run over and I am in the hands of the hospital staff.

~Stevie Smith

I am hungry to be interrupted For ever and ever amen O Person from Porlock come quickly And bring my thoughts to an end.

~Stevie Smith

My heart was full of softening showers, I used to swing like this for hours, I did not care for war or death, I was glad to draw my breath.

~Stevie Smith

There can be no good art that is international. Art to be vigorous and

gesund must use the material at hand.

~Stevie Smith

Oh Lion in a peculiar guise, Sharp Roman road to Paradise, Come eat me up, I'll pay thy toll With all my flesh, and keep my soul.

~Stevie Smith

I don't think Auden liked my poetry very much, he's very Anglican.

~Stevie Smith

Love is not love that wounded bleeds And bleeding sullies slow. Come death within my hands and I Unto my love will go.

~Stevie Smith

Into the dark night Resignedly I go, I am not so afraid of the dark night As the friends I do not know, I do not fear the night above As I fear the friends below.

~Stevie Smith

If I lie down on my bed I must be here, But if I lie down in my grave I may be elsewhere.

~Stevie Smith

It is an amiable part of human nature, that we should love our animals; it is even better to love them to the point of folly, than not to love them at all.

~Stevie Smith

one never knows really how things are with other people, they just do always seem more spirited than oneself somehow.

~Stevie Smith

Colours are what drive me most strongly.

~Stevie Smith

So I fancy my Muse says, when I wish to die, Oh no, Oh no, we are not yet friends enough, And Virtue also says: We are not yet friends enough.

~Stevie Smith

Youth is an arithmetical statement of passing interest, each hour eats it up.

~Stevie Smith

I only asked my friends to be friendly and polite, I found them indifferent and censorious; The one I left to silence, the other to reproach: God send me over all such friends victorious.

~Stevie Smith

This is the simplest of all thoughts, that Death must come when we call, although he is a god.

~Stevie Smith

Coleridge received the Person from Porlock And ever after called him a curse, Then why did he hurry to let him in? He could have hid in the house.

~Stevie Smith

I'm sorry to say my dear wife is a dreamer, and as she dreams she gets paler and leaner. Then be off to your Dream, with his fly-away hat, I stay with the girls who are happy and fat.

~Stevie Smith

Christianity in the suburb is cheerful. The church is a centre of social activity and those who go to church need never be lonely.

~Stevie Smith

The flower and fruit of love are mine
The ant, the fieldmouse and the mole

~Stevie Smith

I made Man with too many faults. Yet I love him. And if he wishes, I have a home above for him.

~Stevie Smith

Cry pretty, pretty, pretty and you'll be able Very soon not even to cry pretty And so be delivered entirely from humanity This is prettiest of all, it is very pretty.

~Stevie Smith

As Nature is always careless and indifferent Who sees, who steps, means nothing and this is pretty.

~Stevie Smith

I love people, but I love the thought and memory of them just as much.

~Stevie Smith

A great artist ... takes what he did not make and makes of it something that only he can make.

~Stevie Smith

Death's not a separation or alteration or parting; it's just a one-handed door.

~Stevie Smith

This Englishwoman is so refined, She has no bosom and no behind.

~Stevie Smith

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- Running Quotes
- Lonely Quotes
- Flower Quotes
- Cold Quotes
- Trying Quotes
- Cat Quotes
- Fancy Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Animal Quotes
- Muse Quotes