

Sylvia Townsend Warner Quotes

*People, Children, Fall, Eye, Cat, Wish, Hands, Two, Writing, Tree, World, Love,
May, Love Is, Cooking, Night, Self, War, Desire, Grandmother*

To think of losing is to lose already.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

It is best as one grows older to strip oneself of possessions, to shed oneself downward like a tree, to be almost wholly earth before one dies.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

... possessiveness cannot accept; it cannot even strike a fair bargain; it has to confer.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

The fatal flaw of gravity; when you are down, everything falls down on you.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Spring is strictly sentimental, self-regarding; but I burn more careless in the autumn bonfire.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Inflation is the senility of democracies.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

cooking is the most succulent of human pleasures.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

One cannot overestimate the power of a good rancorous hatred on the part of the stupid. The stupid have so much more industry and energy to expend on hating. They build it up like coral insects.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Truth has beauty, power, and necessity.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

[John Craske] painted like a man giving witness under oath to a wild story.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Idleness is righteous if it is comfortable. Uncomfortable idleness is sin & sinful waste.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

And another day is tucked under my wing.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

There is a moral, of course, and like all morals it is better not pursued.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Love is the only real patriation, and without one's dear one sits in a dreary and boring exile.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Young people are careless of their virginity; one day they may have it and the next not.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Nine people out of ten (in Germany and England, perhaps ten people) would rather wait for their rights than fight for their rights.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

When I die, I hope to think I have annoyed a great many people.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Anticipation of pleasure is a pleasure in itself.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Total grief is like a minefield. No knowing when one will touch the tripwire.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

There are not enough poems in praise of bed.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

noise is a pollution.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Happiness is an immunity.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

I wasn't educated. I was very lucky.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

One cannot revoke a true happiness.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Happy is the day whose history is not written down.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

no one wants to be praised for possibilities when one has submitted performances.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Oh, I am all for singing. If I had had children I should have hounded them into choirs & choral societies, and if they weren't good enough for that, I would have sent them out, to sing in the streets.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

In the morning I had decided that henceforth I only cared for easy loves. It is so degrading to have to persuade people into liking one, or one's works.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

... Rembrandt is not a painter at all. He is a creator, who creates his beings, three dimensional living beings, on a two-dimensional flat surface which acts as a mute, and enforces silence on them.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

I wish I could be a grandmother. It is wanton extravagance to have had a youth with no one to tell of it to when one grows old.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

I have an idea that conscience impedes quite as many merits as faults, is a sort of alloy, a nickel which may prevent silver from bending but also prevents it from shining.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

All encounters with children are touched with social embarrassment.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Children driven good are apt to be driven mad.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Of all damnable offenses preaching prudence to the young is the most damnable.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

The body, after all, older and wiser than soul, being first created, and, like a good horse, if given its way would go home by the best path and at the right pace.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Love amazes, but it does not surprise.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Rouen shone in dark sunlight and a storm swept it away from my eyes and churned up the broad river with waves which pounced up like cats

as our train drew out of the arches of the bridge.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

There are some women ... in whom conscience is so strongly developed that it leaves little room for anything else.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

when the German propaganda tries to be winsome it is like a clown with homicidal mania - ludicrous and terrifying both at once.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Belligerents always abolish war after a war.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

[On an anarchist acquaintance:] Everything in appearance the most alarmist aunt could wish.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Elizabeth ... had the prerogative of the rich that she could be generous with large sums and niggardly over small ones.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

She was heavier than he expected - women always are.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

The baby romped on my lap like a short stout salmon.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

You are only young once. At the time it seems endless, and is gone in a flash; and then for a very long time you are old.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Those who spend their strength in field and factory would rather hear that their emancipation is bound to come than that it is something to be

hazardously purchased by struggle and sacrifice.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Wealth, if not a mere flash in the pan, compels the wealthy to become wealthier.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Only two things are real to me: my love and my death. In between them, I merely exist as a scatter of senses.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

I seem to use this word 'kind' very frequently. When one is unhappy or anxious it is a quality one dwells on.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

The Church has lost a great religious poet in me; but I have lost an infinity of fun in the church, so the loss is even.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Is it the realization that people recently psychoanalyzed tend to be dreadful bores which makes the U.S.A. army reject them for the draft?

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

But what are wishes, compared with longings?

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

For the last six weeks I have found myself pestered by some characters in search of an author.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

One need not write in a diary what one is to remember for ever.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Sneezes ... always sound much louder to the sneezer than to the

hearers. It is an acoustical peculiarity.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

General de Gaulle is again pictured in our newspapers, looking as usual like an embattled codfish.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

Reason is a poor hand at prophecies.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

I realize that it is as one ages and loses one's natural force that one is at the mercy of heredity. The young are themselves: the aging, their parents' children.

~Sylvia Townsend Warner

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