

Tennessee Williams Quotes

*Writing, People, Thinking, Heart, Play, Believe, Men, World, Long, Life,
Character, Want, Giving, Way, Love, Artist, Art, Light, Reality, Menagerie*

There is a time for departure even when there's no certain place to go.

~Tennessee Williams

All cruel people describe themselves as paragons of frankness.

~Tennessee Williams

What is straight? A line can be straight, or a street, but the human heart, oh, no, it's curved like a road through mountains.

~Tennessee Williams

It's interesting, isn't it? . . . the chandelier . . . it reminds me of mushroom soup.

~Tennessee Williams

Success is blocked by concentrating on it and planning for it... Success is shy - it won't come out while you're watching.

~Tennessee Williams

Caged birds accept each other, but flight is what they long for.

~Tennessee Williams

Don't look forward to the day you stop suffering, because when it comes you'll know you're dead.

~Tennessee Williams

I can't stand a naked light bulb, any more than I can a rude remark or a vulgar action.

~Tennessee Williams

The only thing worse than a liar is a liar that's also a hypocrite!

~Tennessee Williams

Life is an unanswered question, but let's still believe in the dignity and importance of the question.

~Tennessee Williams

A prayer for the wild at heart kept in cages.

~Tennessee Williams

Friends are God's way of apologizing to us for our families

~Tennessee Williams

At the age of fourteen I discovered writing as an escape from a world of reality in which I felt acutely uncomfortable.

~Tennessee Williams

I'm not living with you. We occupy the same cage. (Maggie)

~Tennessee Williams

Don't you just love these long rainy afternoons in New Orleans when an hour isn't just an hour — but a little bit of eternity dropped in your hands — and who knows what to do with it?

~Tennessee Williams

Everybody is nothing until you love them.

~Tennessee Williams

There comes a time when you look into the mirror and you realize that what you see is all that you will ever be. And then you accept it. Or you kill yourself. Or you stop looking in mirrors.

~Tennessee Williams

We're all of us guinea pigs in the laboratory of God. Humanity is just a work in progress.

~Tennessee Williams

I don't want realism. I want magic!

~Tennessee Williams

Revolution only needs good dreamers who remember their dreams.

~Tennessee Williams

Time doesn't take away from true friendship, nor does separation.

~Tennessee Williams

For time is the longest distance between two places.

~Tennessee Williams

Devils can be driven out of the heart by the touch of a hand on a hand, or a mouth on a mouth.

~Tennessee Williams

Mendacity is a system that we live in," declares Brick. "Liquor is one way out an'death's the other.

~Tennessee Williams

America has only three cities: New York, San Francisco, and New Orleans. Everywhere else is Cleveland.

~Tennessee Williams

You can be young without money but you can't be old without it.

~Tennessee Williams

Kill off all my demons and my angels might die too.

~Tennessee Williams

Hell is yourself and the only redemption is when a person puts himself aside to feel deeply for another person.

~Tennessee Williams

The violets in the mountains have broken the rocks.

~Tennessee Williams

A high station in life is earned by the gallantry with which appalling experiences are survived with grace.

~Tennessee Williams

Make voyages. Attempt them. There's nothing else.

~Tennessee Williams

Success and failure are equally disastrous.

~Tennessee Williams

Life is all memory, except for the one present moment that goes by you so quickly you hardly catch it going.

~Tennessee Williams

Life is partly what we make it, and partly what it is made by the friends we choose.

~Tennessee Williams

To be free is to have achieved your life.

~Tennessee Williams

We are all sentenced to solitary confinement inside our own skins, for life.

~Tennessee Williams

In memory everything seems to happen to music.

~Tennessee Williams

It is planned speeches that contain lies or dissimulations, not what you blurt out so spontaneously in one instant.

~Tennessee Williams

When so many are lonely as seem to be lonely, it would be inexcusably selfish to be lonely alone.

~Tennessee Williams

All pretty girls are a trap, a pretty trap, and men expect them to be.

~Tennessee Williams

They told me to take a streetcar named Desire and then transfer to one called Cemeteries and ride six blocks and get off at - Elysian Fields!

~Tennessee Williams

In human character, simplicity doesn't exist except among simpletons.

~Tennessee Williams

Enthusiasm is the most important thing in life.

~Tennessee Williams

I gave up visiting my psychoanalyst because he was meddling too much in my private life.

~Tennessee Williams

To change is to live, to live is to change, and not to change is to die.

~Tennessee Williams

An artist must believe in himself - Possibly not so passionately as Lawrence - but passionately. Your belief is contagious. Others say - He is vain - but they are affected.

~Tennessee Williams

Something in me will save me from utter ruin no matter what comes.

~Tennessee Williams

Don't you think there is always something unspoken between two people?

~Tennessee Williams

Men don't want anything they get too easy. But on the other hand, men lose interest quickly.

~Tennessee Williams

I have always been more interested in creating a character that contains something crippled. I think nearly all of us have some kind of defect.

~Tennessee Williams

The name of a person you love is more than language.

~Tennessee Williams

The future is called 'perhaps,' which is the only possible thing to call the future. And the important thing is not to allow that to scare you.

~Tennessee Williams

Youth must be wanton, youth must be quick, Dance to the candle while lasteth the wick.

~Tennessee Williams

If you can't be yourself, what's the point of being anyone else?

~Tennessee Williams

Luck is believing you're lucky.

~Tennessee Williams

Nothing's more determined than a cat on a hot tin roof.

~Tennessee Williams

There are no 'good' or 'bad' people. Some are a little better or a little worse, but all are activated more by misunderstanding than malice. A blindness to what is going on in each other's hearts.

~Tennessee Williams

What on earth can you do on this earth but catch at whatever comes near you, with both your fingers, until your fingers are broken?

~Tennessee Williams

Openings come quickly, sometimes, like blue space in running clouds. A complete overcast, then a blaze of light.

~Tennessee Williams

It's hard enough for me to write what I want to write without me trying to write what you say they want me to write which I don't want to write.

~Tennessee Williams

Snatching the eternal out of the desperately fleeting is the great magic trick of human existence.

~Tennessee Williams

Most of the confidence which I appear to feel, especially when influenced by noon wine, is only a pretense.

~Tennessee Williams

I can't expose a human weakness on the stage unless I know it through having it myself.

~Tennessee Williams

The most dangerous word in any human tongue is the word for brother. It's inflammatory.

~Tennessee Williams

All good art is an indiscretion.

~Tennessee Williams

The object of art is to make eternal the desperately fleeting moment.

~Tennessee Williams

Take by surprise and the world gives up resistance.

~Tennessee Williams

Once you fully apprehend the vacuity of a life without struggle, you are equipped with the basic means of salvation.

~Tennessee Williams

You see, baby, after a glass or two of wine I'm inclined to extravagance.

~Tennessee Williams

We all live in a house on fire, no fire department to call; no way out, just the upstairs window to look out of while the fire burns the house down with us trapped, locked in it.

~Tennessee Williams

If the writing is honest it cannot be separated from the man who wrote it.

~Tennessee Williams

The theatre is a place where one has time for the problems of people to whom one would show the door if they came to one's office for a job.

~Tennessee Williams

I think that hate is a feeling that can only exist where there is no understanding.

~Tennessee Williams

Not facing a fire doesn't put it out.

~Tennessee Williams

How beautiful it is and how easily it can be broken.

~Tennessee Williams

How long does it have to go on? This punishment? Haven't I done time enough, haven't I served my term? can't I apply for a-pardon?

~Tennessee Williams

Some mystery should be left in the revelation of character in a play, just as a great deal of mystery is always left in the revelation of character in life, even in one's own character to himself.

~Tennessee Williams

We are all civilized people, wich means that we are all savages at heart but observing a few amenities of civilized behaviour.

~Tennessee Williams

We have to distrust each other. It is our only defense against betrayal.

~Tennessee Williams

If I got rid of my demons, I'd lose my angels.

~Tennessee Williams

The only unforgivable sin is deliberate cruelty.

~Tennessee Williams

Like a cat on a hot tin roof.

~Tennessee Williams

There is only one true aristocracy . . . and that is the aristocracy of passionate souls!

~Tennessee Williams

attempting to find in motion what was lost in space.

~Tennessee Williams

Symbols are nothing but the natural speech of drama.

~Tennessee Williams

You are the only young man that I know of who ignores the fact that the future becomes the present, the present the past, and the past turns into everlasting regret if you don't plan for it.

~Tennessee Williams

All your Western theologies, the whole mythology of them, are based on the concept of God as a senile delinquent.

~Tennessee Williams

Talent? What is talent but the ability to get away with something?

~Tennessee Williams

Death is one moment, and life is so many of them.

~Tennessee Williams

And then the searchlight which had been turned on the world was turned off again and never for one moment since has there been any light that's stronger than this-kitchen-candle.

~Tennessee Williams

Living with someone you love can be lonelier than living entirely alone, if the one that you love doesn't love you.

~Tennessee Williams

What is the victory of a cat on a hot tin roof? - I wish I knew... Just staying on it, I guess, as long as she can.

~Tennessee Williams

I am more faithful than I intended to be!

~Tennessee Williams

Security is a kind of death.

~Tennessee Williams

Time rushes towards us with its hospital tray of infinitely varied narcotics, even while it is preparing us for its inevitably fatal operation.

~Tennessee Williams

Time goes by so fast. Nothin' can outrun it. Death commences too early--almost before you're half-acquainted with life--you meet the other.

~Tennessee Williams

Go, then! Go to the moon-you selfish dreamer!

~Tennessee Williams

Oh you weak, beautiful people who give up with such grace. What you need is someone to take hold of you

~Tennessee Williams

I've got the guts to die. What I want to know is, have you got the guts to live?

~Tennessee Williams

I don't think there is such a thing as a precise sexual orientation. I think we're all ambiguous sexually.

~Tennessee Williams

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