

Theodore Dreiser Quotes

*Men, Strong, World, Writing, Desire, Believe, Love Is, Evil, Wings, Next, Love,
Mean, Giving, Eye, Color, Thinking, Real, Shadow, Civilization, Hands*

Assure a man that he has a soul and then frighten him with old wives' tales as to what is to become of him afterward, and you have hooked a fish, a mental slave.

~Theodore Dreiser

I believe in the compelling power of love. I do not understand it. I believe it to be the most fragrant blossom of all this thorny existence.

~Theodore Dreiser

Life is a God-damned, stinking, treacherous game and nine hundred and ninety-nine men out of a thousand are bastards.

~Theodore Dreiser

How true it is that words are but the vague shadows of the volumes we mean.

~Theodore Dreiser

Let no one underestimate the need of pity. We live in a stony universe whose hard, brilliant forces rage fiercely.

~Theodore Dreiser

In order to have wisdom we must have ignorance.

~Theodore Dreiser

Love is the only thing you can really give in all this world. When you give love, you give everything.

~Theodore Dreiser

Life is made for the strong. There is no mercy in it for the weak-none...Such is the tragedy of desire.

~Theodore Dreiser

Our civilization is still in a middle stage, scarcely beast, in that it is no longer wholly guided by instinct; scarcely human, in that it is not yet

wholly guided by reason.

~Theodore Dreiser

Art is the stored honey of the human soul, gathered on wings of misery and travail.

~Theodore Dreiser

The most futile thing in this world is any attempt, perhaps, at exact definition of character. All individuals are a bundle of contradictions - none more so than the most capable.

~Theodore Dreiser

How dismal is progress without publicity.

~Theodore Dreiser

Words are but the vague shadows of the volumes we mean. Little audible links, they are, chaining together great inaudible feelings and purposes.

~Theodore Dreiser

A thought will color a world for us.

~Theodore Dreiser

Nothing is proved, all is permitted.

~Theodore Dreiser

If I were personally to define religion, I would say that it is a bandage that man has invented to protect a soul made bloody by circumstance.

~Theodore Dreiser

I believe in the compelling power of love.

~Theodore Dreiser

To the untraveled, territory other than their own familiar heath is

invariably fascinating. Next to love it is the one thing that solaces and delights.

~Theodore Dreiser

If you have that unconquerable urge to write, nothing will stop you from writing.

~Theodore Dreiser

You walk into a room, see a woman, and something happens. It's chemical. What are you going to do about it?

~Theodore Dreiser

The strong man wants to be allowed to DO; the little man wants to stop him.

~Theodore Dreiser

It is a sad thing to want for happiness, but it is a terrible thing to see another groping about blindly for it, when it is almost within the grasp.

~Theodore Dreiser

Shakespeare, I come!

~Theodore Dreiser

And then he sank back and tried, as usual, not to think. He must succeed. That's what the world was made for. That's what he was made for. That was what he would have to do.

~Theodore Dreiser

All forms of dogmatic religion should go. The world did without them in the past and can do so again.

~Theodore Dreiser

I acknowledge the Furies. I believe in them. I have heard the disastrous beating of their wings.

~Theodore Dreiser

The true meaning of money yet remains to be popularly explained and comprehended.

~Theodore Dreiser

Remember, love is all a woman has to give, but it is the only thing which God permits us to carry beyond the grave.

~Theodore Dreiser

Why must women torment me so?

~Theodore Dreiser

When a girl leaves her home at eighteen, she does one of two things. Either she falls into saving hands and becomes better, or she rapidly assumes the cosmopolitan standard of virtue and becomes worse

~Theodore Dreiser

The Irish are a philosophic as well as a practical race. Their first and strongest impulse is to make the best of a bad situation to put a better face on evil than it normally wears.

~Theodore Dreiser

Theodore Dreiser Should ought to write nicer.

~Theodore Dreiser

Morality and ethics are nothing but footballs, wherewith people, strong people play to win points.

~Theodore Dreiser

When a man, however passively, becomes an obstacle to the fulfillment of a woman's desires, he becomes an odious thing in her eyes, - or will, given time enough.

~Theodore Dreiser

A real flame of love is a subtle thing. It burns as a will-o'-the-wisp, dancing onward to fairy lands of delight. It roars as a furnace. Too often jealousy is the quality upon which it feeds.

~Theodore Dreiser

Dreiser wanted to write the next great American novel, and his desperation pervades [*Sister Carrie*] like an unsavory pit stain.

~Theodore Dreiser

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