

Tillie Olsen

Quotes

*Writing, Time, Years, Doe, Book, Reality, Cuss Words, Economy, Skin Color,
Generosity, Dna, Divides, Toil, Terrible, Blood, Solitude, Distraction, Scary,
Religion, Special*

That's what I want to be when I grow up, just a peaceful wreck holding hands with other peaceful wrecks.

~Tillie Olsen

Women have the right to say: this is surface, this falsifies reality, this degrades.

~Tillie Olsen

More than in any other human relationship, overwhelmingly more, motherhood means being instantly interruptible, responsive, and responsible

~Tillie Olsen

The clock talked loud. I threw it away, it scared me what it talked.

~Tillie Olsen

She would not exchange her solitude for anything. Never again to be forced to move to the rhythms of others.

~Tillie Olsen

Better immersion than to live untouched.

~Tillie Olsen

It is a long baptism into the seas of humankind, my daughter. Better immersion than to live untouched.

~Tillie Olsen

And when is there time to remember, to sift, to weigh, to estimate, to total?

~Tillie Olsen

Not to have an audience is a kind of death.

~Tillie Olsen

It's hard for me to talk about the terrible things that have happened in my lifetime because they didn't need to be.

~Tillie Olsen

It is distraction, not meditation, that becomes habitual; interruption, not continuity; spasmodic, not constant toil.

~Tillie Olsen

Every woman who writes is a survivor.

~Tillie Olsen

I don't want to die leaving the world as it is right now.

~Tillie Olsen

Time granted does not necessarily coincide with time that can be most fully used.

~Tillie Olsen

I very much dislike the word "race," and I never use it. I use the word "racist." Race is not a fact. There is only one race: human. Skin color is less than 2 percent of the DNA.

~Tillie Olsen

Not everybody feels religion the same way. Some it's in their mouth, but some it's like a hope in their blood, their bones.

~Tillie Olsen

There are worse words than cuss-words, there are words that hurt.

~Tillie Olsen

I know that I haven't powers enough to divide myself into one who earns and one who creates.

~Tillie Olsen

Better mankind born without mouths and stomachs than always to worry about money to buy, to shop, to fix, to cook, to wash, to clean.

~Tillie Olsen

Lighting does occasionally strike and occasional the result isn't a corpse.

~Tillie Olsen

I could not live by literature if only to begin with, because of the slow maturing of my work and its special character.

~Tillie Olsen

Writers in a profit making economy are an exploitable commodity whose works are products to be marketed, and are so judged and handled.

~Tillie Olsen

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