

V. S. Pritchett

Quotes

*Art, Stories, Writing, Men, Mind, People, Sin, Yawning, Used, Character,
Novelists, Eye, Giving, Example, Commitment, Thinking, Mausoleum,
Tranquility, Suicidal, Keys*

Short stories can be rather stark and bare unless you put in the right details. Details make stories human, and the more human a story can be, the better.

~V. S. Pritchett

Well, youth is the period of assumed personalities and disguises. It is the time of the sincerely insincere.

~V. S. Pritchett

The profoundly humorous writers are humorous because they are responsive to the hopeless, uncouth, concatenations of life.

~V. S. Pritchett

Writing enlarges the landscape of the mind.

~V. S. Pritchett

Among the masked dandies of Edwardian comedy, Max Beerbohm is the most happily armored by a deep and almost innocent love of himself as a work of art.

~V. S. Pritchett

I am under the spell of language, which has ruled me since I was 10.

~V. S. Pritchett

I felt the beginning of a passion, hopeless in the long run, but very nourishing, for identifying myself with people who were not my own, and whose lives were governed by ideas alien to mine.

~V. S. Pritchett

A touch of science, even bogus science, gives an edge to the superstitious tale.

~V. S. Pritchett

The present has its Å©lan because it is always on the edge of the

unknown and one misunderstands the past unless one remembers that this unknown was once part of its nature.

~V. S. Pritchett

Life â€” how curious is that habit that makes us think it is not here, but elsewhere.

~V. S. Pritchett

How extraordinary it is that one feels most guilt about the sins one is unable to commit.

~V. S. Pritchett

It's all in the art. You get no credit for living.

~V. S. Pritchett

The Canadian spirit is cautious, observant and critical where the American is assertive.

~V. S. Pritchett

Detective stories are the art-for-art's sake of yawning Philistinism.

~V. S. Pritchett

It is the role of the poet to look at what is happening in the world and to know that quite other things are happening.

~V. S. Pritchett

All writers - all people - have their stores of private and family legends which lie like a collection of half-forgotten, often violent toys on the floor of memory.

~V. S. Pritchett

We are used to the actions of human beings, not to their stillness.

~V. S. Pritchett

Sooner or later, the great men turn out to be all alike. They never stop working. They never lose a minute. It is very depressing.

~V. S. Pritchett

The mark of genius is an incessant activity of mind. Genius is a spiritual greed.

~V. S. Pritchett

A natural New Yorker is a native of the present tense.

~V. S. Pritchett

There is more magic in sin if it is not committed.

~V. S. Pritchett

Now, practically all reviewers have academic aspirations. The people from the universities are used to a captive audience, but the literary journalist has to please his audience.

~V. S. Pritchett

The detective novel is the art-for-art's-sake of our yawning Philistinism, the classic example of a specialized form of art removed from contact with the life it pretends to build on.

~V. S. Pritchett

Criticism changes with the fashion of the time. A story is always a story.

~V. S. Pritchett

Some writers thrive on the contact with the commerce of success; others are corrupted by it. Perhaps, like losing one's virginity, it is not as bad (or as good) as one feared it was going to be.

~V. S. Pritchett

The makers of the short story have rarely been good novelists.

~V. S. Pritchett

The State, that cawing rookery of committees and subcommittees.

~V. S. Pritchett

Queen Victoria - a mixture of national landlady and actress.

~V. S. Pritchett

We do not wish to be better than we are, but more fully what we are.

~V. S. Pritchett

One recalls how much the creative impulse of the best-sellers depends upon self-pity. It is an emotion of great dramatic potential.

~V. S. Pritchett

The peculiar foreign superstition that the English do not like love, the evidence being that they do not talk about it.

~V. S. Pritchett

A short story is. . . frequently the celebration of character at bursting point.

~V. S. Pritchett

It is well known that, when two authors meet, they at once start talking about money-like everyone else.

~V. S. Pritchett

It is exciting and emancipating to believe we are one of nature's latest experiments, but what if the experiment is unsuccessful?

~V. S. Pritchett

Like many popular best-sellers, he was a very sad and solemn man who took himself too seriously and his art not seriously enough.

~V. S. Pritchett

It is often said that in Ireland there is an excess of genius unsustained by talent; but there is talent in the tongues.

~V. S. Pritchett

Those mausoleums of inactive masculinity are places for men who prefer armchairs to women.

~V. S. Pritchett

The wrongs of childhood and upbringing have made a large and obsessional contribution to autobiography and the novel.

~V. S. Pritchett

I shall never be as old as I was between 20 and 30.

~V. S. Pritchett

It is less the business of the novelist to tell us what happened than to show how it happened.

~V. S. Pritchett

It's very important to feel foreign. I was born in England, but when I'm being a writer, everyone in England is foreign to me.

~V. S. Pritchett

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