

Virginia Woolf Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Book, Men, Mind, Eye, Reading, Heart, Women,
Mean, Art, Hands, World, Light, Life, Lying, Dream, Sea, Giving*

She dares me to pour myself out like a living waterfall. She dares me to enter the soul that is more than my own; she extinguishes fear in mere seconds. She lets light come through.

~Virginia Woolf

A feminist is any woman who tells the truth about her life

~Virginia Woolf

You cannot find peace by avoiding life.

~Virginia Woolf

One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.

~Virginia Woolf

A self that goes on changing is a self that goes on living.

~Virginia Woolf

I have a deeply hidden and inarticulate desire for something beyond the daily life.

~Virginia Woolf

I see you everywhere, in the stars, in the river, to me you're everything that exists; the reality of everything.

~Virginia Woolf

The only advice ... that one person can give another about reading is to take no advice, to follow your own instincts, to use your own reason, to come to your own conclusions.

~Virginia Woolf

No need to hurry. No need to sparkle. No need to be anybody but oneself.

~Virginia Woolf

Women have served all these centuries as looking glasses possessing the power of reflecting the figure of man at twice its natural size.

~Virginia Woolf

Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.

~Virginia Woolf

If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people.

~Virginia Woolf

The eyes of others our prisons; their thoughts our cages.

~Virginia Woolf

Language is wine upon the lips.

~Virginia Woolf

As a woman I have no country. As a woman my country is the whole world.

~Virginia Woolf

I feel certain that I'm going mad again, I feel we can't go thru another of those terrible times. And I shan't recover this time. I begin to hear voices

~Virginia Woolf

I would venture to guess that Anon, who wrote so many poems without signing them, was often a woman.

~Virginia Woolf

Arrange whatever pieces come your way.

~Virginia Woolf

For nothing was simply one thing.

~Virginia Woolf

The mind is the most capricious of insects â€” flitting, fluttering.

~Virginia Woolf

I want the concentration and the romance, and the worlds all glued together, fused, glowing: have no time to waste any more on prose.

~Virginia Woolf

These are the soul's changes. I don't believe in ageing. I believe in forever altering one's aspect to the sun. Hence my optimism.

~Virginia Woolf

I feel all shadows of the universe multiplied deep inside my skin.

~Virginia Woolf

The beauty of the world, which is so soon to perish, has two edges, one of laughter, one of anguish, cutting the heart asunder.

~Virginia Woolf

The truth is, I often like women. I like their unconventionality. I like their completeness. I like their anonymity.

~Virginia Woolf

I'm terrified of passive acquiescence. I live in intensity.

~Virginia Woolf

I am rooted, but I flow.

~Virginia Woolf

For what Harley Street specialist has time to understand the body, let alone the mind or both in combination, when he is a slave to thirteen thousand a year?

~Virginia Woolf

I like the unreality of your mind; the whole thing is very splendid and voluptuous and absurd.

~Virginia Woolf

Second hand books are wild books, homeless books; they have come together in vast flocks of variegated feather, and have a charm which the domesticated volumes of the library lack.

~Virginia Woolf

Literature is strewn with the wreckage of men who have minded beyond reason the opinions of others.

~Virginia Woolf

Blame it or praise it, there is no denying the wild horse in us.

~Virginia Woolf

A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction.

~Virginia Woolf

Just in case you ever foolishly forget; I'm never not thinking of you

~Virginia Woolf

Never are voices so beautiful as on a winter's evening, when dusk almost hides the body, and they seem to issue from nothingness with a note of intimacy seldom heard by day.

~Virginia Woolf

When the shriveled skin of the ordinary is stuffed out with meaning, it satisfies the senses amazingly.

~Virginia Woolf

Some people go to priests; others to poetry; I to my friends.

~Virginia Woolf

I always had the deepest affection for people who carried sublime tears in their silences.

~Virginia Woolf

A veil of insanity everywhere: Oh why I was born in this age? It is a terrible age.

~Virginia Woolf

Books are the mirrors of the soul.

~Virginia Woolf

Intimacy is a difficult art.

~Virginia Woolf

A light here required a shadow there.

~Virginia Woolf

How many times have people used a pen or paintbrush because they couldn't pull the trigger?

~Virginia Woolf

In solitude we give passionate attention to our lives, to our memories, to the details around us.

~Virginia Woolf

Be truthful, and the result is bound to be amazingly interesting.

~Virginia Woolf

I am in the mood to dissolve in the sky.

~Virginia Woolf

But beauty must be broken daily to remain beautiful.

~Virginia Woolf

It seems as if an age of genius must be succeeded by an age of endeavour; riot and extravagance by cleanliness and hard work.

~Virginia Woolf

One has to secrete a jelly in which to slip quotations down people's throats - and one always secretes too much jelly.

~Virginia Woolf

I feel my brains, like a pear, to see if it's ripe; it will be exquisite by September.

~Virginia Woolf

For this moment, this one moment, we are together. I press you to me. Come, pain, feed on me. Bury your fangs in my flesh. Tear me asunder. I sob, I sob.

~Virginia Woolf

Love, the poet said, is woman's whole existence.

~Virginia Woolf

Thinking is my fighting.

~Virginia Woolf

Distorted realities have always been my cup of tea.

~Virginia Woolf

One of the signs of passing youth is the birth of a sense of fellowship with other human beings as we take our place among them.

~Virginia Woolf

The weather varies between heavy fog and pale sunshine; My thoughts

follow the exact same process.

~Virginia Woolf

As for my next book, I won't write it till it has grown heavy in my mind like a ripe pear; pendant, gravid, asking to be cut or it will fall.

~Virginia Woolf

It is in our idleness, in our dreams, that the submerged truth sometimes comes to the top.

~Virginia Woolf

Why are women... so much more interesting to men than men are to women?

~Virginia Woolf

My brain hums with scraps of poetry and madness.

~Virginia Woolf

It is a thousand pities never to say what one feels.

~Virginia Woolf

Better was it to go unknown and leave behind you an arch, then to burn like a meteor and leave no dust.

~Virginia Woolf

Life is not a series of gig lamps symmetrically arranged; life is a luminous halo, a semi-transparent envelope surrounding us from the beginning of consciousness to the end.

~Virginia Woolf

To enjoy freedom we have to control ourselves.

~Virginia Woolf

Our friends - how distant, how mute, how seldom visited and little

known. And I, too, am dim to my friends and unknown; a phantom, sometimes seen, often not. Life is a dream surely.

~Virginia Woolf

It is fatal to be a man or woman pure and simple: one must be a woman manly, or a man womanly.

~Virginia Woolf

Incessant company is as bad as solitary confinement.

~Virginia Woolf

All extremes of feeling are allied to madness.

~Virginia Woolf

Never pretend that the things you haven't got are not worth having.

~Virginia Woolf

Growing up is losing some illusions, in order to acquire others.

~Virginia Woolf

What does the brain matter compared with the heart?

~Virginia Woolf

He who robs us of our dreams robs us of our life.

~Virginia Woolf

Melancholy were the sounds on a winter's night.

~Virginia Woolf

I detest the masculine point of view. I am bored by his heroism, virtue, and honour. I think the best these men can do is not talk about themselves anymore.

~Virginia Woolf

It is far harder to kill a phantom than a reality.

~Virginia Woolf

Intellectual freedom depends upon material things.

~Virginia Woolf

A whole lifetime was too short to bring out, the full flavour; to extract every ounce of pleasure, every shade of meaning.

~Virginia Woolf

Someone has to die in order that the rest of us should value life more.

~Virginia Woolf

If only she could put them together, she felt, write them out in some sentence, then she would have got at the truth of things.

~Virginia Woolf

I can only note that the past is beautiful because one never realises an emotion at the time. It expands later, and thus we don't have complete emotions about the present, only about the past.

~Virginia Woolf

Beauty was not everything. Beauty had this penalty â€” it came too readily, came too completely. It stilled life â€” froze it.

~Virginia Woolf

No sooner have you feasted on beauty with your eyes than your mind tells you that beauty is vain and beauty passes

~Virginia Woolf

I thought how unpleasant it is to be locked out; and I thought how it is worse, perhaps, to be locked in.

~Virginia Woolf

And all the lives we ever lived and all the lives to be are full of trees and changing leaves.

~Virginia Woolf

I prefer men to cauliflowers

~Virginia Woolf

The poet gives us his essence, but prose takes the mould of the body and mind entire.

~Virginia Woolf

Until we can comprehend the beguiling beauty of a single flower, we are woefully unable to grasp the meaning and potential of life itself.

~Virginia Woolf

It is no use trying to sum people up. One must follow hints, not exactly what is said, nor yet entirely what is done.

~Virginia Woolf

All extremes are dangerous.

~Virginia Woolf

Oh, is this your buried treasure? The light in the heart.

~Virginia Woolf

I have lost friends, some by death...others by sheer inability to cross the street.

~Virginia Woolf

The history of men's opposition to women's emancipation is more interesting perhaps than the story of that emancipation itself.

~Virginia Woolf

Like all very handsome men who die tragically, he left not so much a

character behind him as a legend. Youth and death shed a halo through which it is difficult to see a real face.

~Virginia Woolf

One likes people much better when they're battered down by a prodigious siege of misfortune than when they triumph.

~Virginia Woolf

Each had his own business to think of. Each had his past shut in him like the leaves of a book known to him by heart; and his friends could only read the title.

~Virginia Woolf

Tom's great yellow bronze mask all draped upon an iron framework. An inhibited, nerve-drawn; dropped face - as if hung on a scaffold of heavy private brooding; and thought.

~Virginia Woolf

To want and not to have, sent all up her body a hardness, a hollowness, a strain. And then to want and not to have- to want and want- how that wrung the heart, and wrung it again and again!

~Virginia Woolf

Why does Samuel Butler say, 'Wise men never say what they think of women'? Wise men never say anything else apparently.

~Virginia Woolf

Inevitably we look upon society, so kind to you, so harsh to us, as an ill-fitting form that distorts the truth; deforms the mind; fetters the will.

~Virginia Woolf

I am reading six books at once, the only way of reading; since, as you will agree, one book is only a single unaccompanied note, and to get the full sound, one needs ten others at the same time.

~Virginia Woolf

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