

# W. Somerset Maugham

## Quotes

*Men, People, Life, Writing, Thinking, Inspirational, Art, Character, Heart, Love, Book, Beautiful, Funny, Atheism, Believe, Doe, Mean, World, Human Bondage, Women*

Nothing in the world is permanent, and we're foolish when we ask anything to last, but surely we're still more foolish not to take delight in it while we have it.

~W. Somerset Maugham

We are not the same persons this year as last; nor are those we love. It is a happy chance if we, changing, continue to love a changed person.

~W. Somerset Maugham

To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all the miseries of life.

~W. Somerset Maugham

It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it.

~W. Somerset Maugham

If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom; and the irony of it is that if it is comfort or money that it values more, it will lose that too.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The secret to life is meaningless unless you discover it yourself.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The only important thing in a book is the meaning that it has for you.

~W. Somerset Maugham

It is dangerous to let the public behind the scenes. They are easily disillusioned and then they are angry with you, for it was the illusion they loved.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The common idea that success spoils people by making them vain,

egotistic and self-complacent is erroneous; on the contrary it makes them, for the most part, humble, tolerant and kind.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Imagination grows by exercise, and contrary to common belief, is more powerful in the mature than in the young.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Love is only a dirty trick played on us to achieve continuation of the species.

~W. Somerset Maugham

There are few things so pleasant as a picnic eaten in perfect comfort.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The great tragedy of life is not that men perish, but that they cease to love.

~W. Somerset Maugham

It is not true that suffering ennobles the character; happiness does that sometimes, but suffering for the most part, makes men petty and vindictive.

~W. Somerset Maugham

You know, of course, that the Tasmanians, who never committed adultery, are now extinct.

~W. Somerset Maugham

In Hollywood, the women are all peaches. It makes one long for an apple occasionally.

~W. Somerset Maugham

I would sooner read a time-table or a catalogue than nothing at all. They are much more entertaining than half the novels that are written.

~W. Somerset Maugham

It was such a lovely day I thought it a pity to get up.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Old age has its pleasures, which, though different, are not less than the pleasures of youth.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The fact that a great many people believe something is no guarantee of its truth.

~W. Somerset Maugham

One cannot find peace in work or in pleasure, in the world or in a convent, but only in one's soul.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The essence of the beautiful is unity in variety.

~W. Somerset Maugham

There's always one who loves and one who lets himself be loved.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The great American novel has not only already been written, it has already been rejected.

~W. Somerset Maugham

It wasn't until late in life that I discovered how easy it is to say, 'I don't know.'

~W. Somerset Maugham

I would sooner read a timetable or a catalog than nothing at all.

~W. Somerset Maugham

I always find it more difficult to say the things I mean than the things I don't.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Illusions are like umbrellas - you no sooner get them than you lose them, and the loss always leaves a little painful wound.

~W. Somerset Maugham

How can I be reasonable? To me our love was everything and you were my whole life. It is not very pleasant to realize that to you it was only an episode.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The love that lasts longest is the love that is never returned.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The crown of literature is poetry.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Life is so largely controlled by chance that its conduct can be but a perpetual improvisation.

~W. Somerset Maugham

As lovers, the difference between men and women is that women can love all day long, but men only at times.

~W. Somerset Maugham

It is not wealth one asks for, but just enough to preserve one's dignity, to work unhampered, to be generous, frank and independent.

~W. Somerset Maugham

There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.

~W. Somerset Maugham

When I read a book I seem to read it with my eyes only, but now and then I come across a passage, perhaps only a phrase, which has a meaning for me, and it becomes part of me.

~W. Somerset Maugham

It's no good trying to keep up old friendships. It's painful for both sides. The fact is, one grows out of people, and the only thing is to face it.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Art for art's sake makes no more sense than gin for gin's sake.

~W. Somerset Maugham

There are two good things in life - freedom of thought and freedom of action.

~W. Somerset Maugham

When you choose your friends, don't be short-changed by choosing personality over character.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The most useful thing about a principle is that it can always be sacrificed to expediency.

~W. Somerset Maugham

If you can tell stories, create characters, devise incidents, and have sincerity and passion, it doesn't matter a damn how you write.

~W. Somerset Maugham

A good Havana is one of the best pleasures that I know.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Sometimes a man hits upon a place to which he mysteriously feels that he belongs.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Love is what happens to men and women who don't know each other.

~W. Somerset Maugham

He had heard people speak contemptuously of money: he wondered if they had ever tried to do without it.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Art is a manifestation of emotion, and emotion speaks a language that all may understand.

~W. Somerset Maugham

If you don't change your beliefs, your life will be like this forever. Is that good news?

~W. Somerset Maugham

Money is like a sixth sense without which you cannot make a complete use of the other five.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Failure make people bitter and cruel. Success improves the character of the man.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Life wouldn't be worth living if I worried over the future as well as the present. When things are at their worst I find something always happens.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Thank God, I can look at a sunset now without having to think how to describe it

~W. Somerset Maugham

What does democracy come down to? The persuasive power of slogans invented by wily self-seeking politicians.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Oh, it's always the same,' she sighed, 'if you want men to behave well to you, you must be beastly to them; if you treat them decently they make you suffer for it.

~W. Somerset Maugham

I can imagine no more comfortable frame of mind for the conduct of life than a humorous resignation.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Sometimes people carry to such perfection the mask they have assumed that in due course they actually become the person they seem.

~W. Somerset Maugham

At a dinner party one should eat wisely but not too well, and talk well but not too wisely.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Of all the hokum with which this country [America] is riddled, the most odd is the common notion that it is free of class distinctions.

~W. Somerset Maugham

She loved three things â€” a joke, a glass of wine, and a handsome man.

~W. Somerset Maugham

If nobody spoke unless he had something to say, the human race would very soon lose the use of speech.

~W. Somerset Maugham

[Money] is the string with which a sardonic destiny directs the motions of its puppets.



~W. Somerset Maugham

There is no explanation for evil. It must be looked upon as a necessary part of the order of the universe. To ignore it is childish, to bewail it senseless.

~W. Somerset Maugham

You can do anything in this world if you are prepared to take the consequences.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Only a mediocre person is always at his best.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Beauty is an ecstasy; it is as simple as hunger. There is really nothing to be said about it. It is like the perfume of a rose: you can smell it and that is all.

~W. Somerset Maugham

People ask for criticism, but they only want praise.

~W. Somerset Maugham

She had a pretty gift for quotation, which is a serviceable substitute for wit.

~W. Somerset Maugham

What makes old age hard to bear is not the failing of one's faculties, mental and physical, but the burden of one's memories.

~W. Somerset Maugham

It's no use crying over spilt milk, because all of the forces of the universe were bent on spilling it.

~W. Somerset Maugham

I made up my mind long ago that life was too short to do anything for myself that I could pay others to do for me.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The important thing was to love rather than to be loved.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The well dressed man is he whose clothes you never notice

~W. Somerset Maugham

Tolerance is only another name for indifference.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Life isn't long enough for love and art.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The ability to quote is a serviceable substitute for wit.

~W. Somerset Maugham

It is not difficult to be unconventional in the eyes of the world when your unconventionality is but the convention of your set.

~W. Somerset Maugham

A dictator must fool all the people all the time and there's only one way to do that, he must also fool himself.

~W. Somerset Maugham

All the words I use in my stories can be found in the dictionary-it's just a matter of arranging them into the right sentences.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Reserve is an artificial quality that is developed in most of us but as the result of innumerable rebuffs.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Writing is the supreme solace.

~W. Somerset Maugham

An author spends months writing a book, and maybe puts his heart's blood into it, and then it lies about unread till the reader has nothing else in the world to do.

~W. Somerset Maugham

An unfortunate thing about this world is that the good habits are much easier to give up than the bad ones.

~W. Somerset Maugham

A state of reverie does not avoid reality, it accedes to reality.

~W. Somerset Maugham

I'd sooner be smashed into a mangled pulp by a bus when we cross the street than look forward to a life like yours.

~W. Somerset Maugham

If forty million people say a foolish thing it does not become a wise one.

~W. Somerset Maugham

In civilized communities men's idiosyncrasies are mitigated by the necessity of conforming to certain rules of behavior. Culture is a mask that hides their faces.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Imagination grows by exercise.

~W. Somerset Maugham

When you are young you take the kindness people show you as your right.

~W. Somerset Maugham

The most valuable thing I have learned from life is to regret nothing.

~W. Somerset Maugham

A good style should show no signs of effort. What is written should seem a happy accident.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Women are often under the impression that men are much more madly in love with them than they really are.

~W. Somerset Maugham

There is nothing so terrible as the pursuit of art by those who have no talent.

~W. Somerset Maugham

A woman can forgive a man for the harm he does her...but she can never forgive him for the sacrifices he makes on her account.

~W. Somerset Maugham

We learn resignation not by our own suffering, but by the suffering of others.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Simplicity and naturalness are the truest marks of distinction.

~W. Somerset Maugham

It might be that to surrender to happiness was to accept defeat, but it was a defeat better than many victories.

~W. Somerset Maugham

If a man hasn't what's necessary to make a woman love him, it's his fault, not hers.

~W. Somerset Maugham

Every production of an artist should be the expression of an adventure of his soul.

~W. Somerset Maugham

First, cut out all the wisdom, then cut out all the adjectives.

~W. Somerset Maugham

"Do you like card tricks?" "No, I hate card tricks," I answered. "Well, I'll just show you this one." He showed me three.

~W. Somerset Maugham

**Related Links:**

- Men Quotes
- People Quotes
- Life Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Inspirational Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Character Quotes
- Heart Quotes
- Love Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Beautiful Quotes
- Funny Quotes
- Atheism Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Doe Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- World Quotes
- Human Bondage Quotes
- Women Quotes