

Walker Percy

Quotes

*People, Men, Past, Despair, Writing, Real, Loss, Way, Thinking, Self, Hatred,
Suicide, Eye, Lying, Order, Heart, Waiting, World, Fiction, Looks*

Bourbon does for me what the piece of cake did for Proust.

~Walker Percy

You live in a deranged age, more deranged than usual because in spite of great scientific and technological advances, man has not the faintest idea of who he is or what he is doing.

~Walker Percy

Where there is chance of gain, there is also chance of loss. Whenever one courts great happiness, one also risks malaise.

~Walker Percy

To become aware of the possibility of the search is to be onto something.

~Walker Percy

In this world goodness is destined to be defeated. But a man must go down fighting. That is the victory. To do anything less is to be less than a man.

~Walker Percy

We love those who know the worst of us and don't turn their face away.

~Walker Percy

I like to eat crawfish and drink beer. That's despair?

~Walker Percy

In a word, the consumer of mass culture is lonely, not only lonely, but spiritually impoverished.

~Walker Percy

Fiction doesn't tell us something we don't know, it tells us something we know but don't know that we know.

~Walker Percy

Lucky is the man who does not secretly believe that every possibility is open to him.

~Walker Percy

Have you noticed that only in time of illness or disaster or death are people real?

~Walker Percy

You can get all A's and still flunk life.

~Walker Percy

Home may be where the heart is but it's no place to spend Wednesday afternoon.

~Walker Percy

Before, I wandered as a diversion. Now I wander seriously and sit and read as a diversion.

~Walker Percy

Jews wait for the Lord, Protestants sing hymns to him, Catholics say mass and eat him.

~Walker Percy

Free people have a serious problem with place, being in a place, using up a place, deciding which new place to rotate to. Americans ricochet around the United States like billiard balls.

~Walker Percy

Suppose you ask God for a miracle and God says yes, very well. How do you live the rest of your life?

~Walker Percy

Boredom is the self being stuffed with itself.

~Walker Percy

Ignorance, if recognized, is often more fruitful than the appearance of knowledge.

~Walker Percy

Why is it that no other species but man gets bored? Under the circumstances in which a man gets bored, a dog goes to sleep.

~Walker Percy

The enduring is something which must be accounted for. One cannot simply shrug it off.

~Walker Percy

Why is there such a gap between nonspeaking animals and speaking man, when there is no other such gap in nature?

~Walker Percy

There is no pain on this earth like seeing the same woman look at another man the way she once looked at you.

~Walker Percy

In this world, goodness is destined to be defeated.

~Walker Percy

My mother refused to let me fail. So I insisted.

~Walker Percy

What nuns don't realize is that they look better in nun clothes than J.C. Penney pantsuits.

~Walker Percy

A good title should be like a good metaphor. It should intrigue without

being too baffling or too obvious.

~Walker Percy

Americans are the nicest, most generous, and sentimental people on earth. Yet Americans have killed more unborn children than any nation in history.

~Walker Percy

Nobody but a Southerner knows the wrenching rinsing sadness of the cities of the North.

~Walker Percy

I couldn't stand it. I still can't stand it. I can't stand the way things are. I cannot tolerate this age.

~Walker Percy

Children notice things first, people later.

~Walker Percy

Being uneducated is no guarantee against being obnoxious.

~Walker Percy

Small disconnected facts, if you take note of them, have a way of becoming connected.

~Walker Percy

Genius consists not in making great discoveries, but in seeing the connection between small discoveries.

~Walker Percy

But what physician has not had patients who don't make any sense at all? To tell the truth, they're our stock-in-trade. We talk and write about the ones we can make sense of.

~Walker Percy

Since grief only aggravates your loss, grieve not for what is past.

~Walker Percy

Consciously cultivate the ordinary.

~Walker Percy

Why has the South produced so many good writers? Because we got beat.

~Walker Percy

Bad books always lie. They lie most of all about the human condition.

~Walker Percy

Losing hope is not so bad. There's something worse: losing hope and hiding it from yourself.

~Walker Percy

Peace is only better than war when it's not hell too. War being hell makes sense.

~Walker Percy

Maybe there are times when an honest hatred serves us better than love corrupted by sentimentality, meretriciousness, sententiousness, cuteness.

~Walker Percy

I had discovered that a person does not have to be this or be that or be anything, not even oneself. One is free.

~Walker Percy

If I had the choice of knowing the truth or searching for the truth, I'd take the search.

~Walker Percy

Nothing remains but desire, and desire comes howling down Elysian Fields like a mistral.

~Walker Percy

It is not merely the truth of science that makes it beautiful, but its simplicity.

~Walker Percy

It makes people nervous for one to step out of one's role.

~Walker Percy

Joy and sadness come by turns.

~Walker Percy

I sometimes think novelists write about sex in order to avoid boring themselves to death.

~Walker Percy

As for hobbies, people with stimulating hobbies suffer from the most noxious of despairs since they are tranquilized in their despair.

~Walker Percy

The fact is I am quite happy in a movie, even a bad movie. Other people, so I have read, treasure memorable moments in their lives.

~Walker Percy

It is possible, however, that the artist is both thin-skinned and prophetic and, like the canary lowered into the mine shaft to test the air, has caught a whiff of something lethal.

~Walker Percy

Not to be onto something is to be in despair.

~Walker Percy

Why did God make woman so beautiful and man with such a loving heart?

~Walker Percy

Classes? Categories? Was that what we had come to?

~Walker Percy

Life is fits and starts, mostly fits.

~Walker Percy

It is not a bad thing to settle for the Little Way, not the big search for the big happiness but the sad little happiness of drinks and kisses, a good little car and a warm deep thigh.

~Walker Percy

But there is much to be said for giving up ... grand ambitions and living the most ordinary life imaginable.

~Walker Percy

A novel is what you call something that won't sell if you call it poems or short stories.

~Walker Percy

This Midwestern sky is the nakedest loneliest sky in America. To escape it, people live inside and underground.

~Walker Percy

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