

Willa Cather Quotes

*People, Men, Art, Book, Writing, World, Thinking, Country, Land, Heart, Years,
Life, Eye, Giving, Artist, Lying, Summer, Mean, Sky, Children*

There are some things you learn best in calm, and some in storm.

~Willa Cather

Success is never so interesting as struggle

~Willa Cather

Of all the bewildering things about a new country, the absence of human landmarks is one of the most depressing and disheartening.

~Willa Cather

The sky was a midnight-blue, like warm, deep, blue water, and the moon seemed to lie on it like a water-lily, floating forward with an invisible current.

~Willa Cather

The fact that I was a girl never damaged my ambitions to be a pope or an emperor.

~Willa Cather

It takes a great deal of experience to become natural.

~Willa Cather

Winter lies too long in country towns; hangs on until it is stale and shabby, old and sullen.

~Willa Cather

Elsewhere the sky is the roof of the world; but here the earth was the floor of the sky.

~Willa Cather

The stupid believe that to be truthful is easy; only the artist, the great artist, knows how difficult it is.

~Willa Cather

The end is nothing; the road is all.

~Willa Cather

Most of the basic material a writer works with is acquired before the age of fifteen.

~Willa Cather

Some memories are realities, and are better than anything that can ever happen to one again.

~Willa Cather

The test of one's decency is how much of a fight one can put up after one has stopped caring, and after one has found out that one can never please the people they wanted to please.

~Willa Cather

There are only two or three human stories, and they go on repeating themselves as fiercely as if they had never happened before.

~Willa Cather

That is happiness; to be dissolved into something complete and great.

~Willa Cather

All the intelligence and talent in the world can't make a singer. The voice is a wild thing. It can't be bred in captivity. It is a sport, like the silver fox. It happens.

~Willa Cather

What was any art but a mould in which to imprison for a moment the shining elusive element which is life itself - life hurrying past us and running away, too strong to stop, too sweet to lose.

~Willa Cather

Miracles surround us at every turn if we but sharpen our perceptions of

them.

~Willa Cather

Where there is great love there are always miracles.

~Willa Cather

The soul cannot be humbled by fasts and prayer; it must be broken by mortal sin to experience forgiveness of sin and rise to a state of grace. Otherwise, religion is nothing but dead logic.

~Willa Cather

Alcohol is perfectly consistent in its effects upon man. Drunkenness is merely an exaggeration. A foolish man drunk becomes maudlin; a bloody man, vicious; a coarse man, vulgar.

~Willa Cather

When we look back, the only things we cherish are those which in some way met our original want; the desire which formed in us in early youth, undirected, and of its own accord.

~Willa Cather

One cannot divine nor forecast the conditions that will make happiness; one only stumbles upon them by chance, in a lucky hour, at the world's end somewhere, and hold fast to the days.

~Willa Cather

Even the wicked get worse than they deserve.

~Willa Cather

The heart of another is a dark forest, always, no matter how close it has been to one's own.

~Willa Cather

To fulfil the dreams of one's youth; that is the best that can happen to a

man. No worldly success can take the place of that.

~Willa Cather

I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do.

~Willa Cather

I shall not die of a cold. I shall die of having lived.

~Willa Cather

The land belongs to the future.

~Willa Cather

I suppose there were moonless nights and dark ones with but a silver shaving and pale stars in the sky, but I remember them all as flooded with the rich indolence of a full moon.

~Willa Cather

Give the people a new word and they think they have a new fact.

~Willa Cather

Every fine story must leave in the mind of the sensitive reader an intangible residuum of pleasure, a cadence, a quality of voice that is exclusively the writer's own, individual, unique.

~Willa Cather

life hurrying past us and running away, too strong to stop, too sweet to lose.

~Willa Cather

Human relationships are the tragic necessity of human life; that they can never be wholly satisfactory, that every ego is half the time greedily seeking them, and half the time pulling away from them.

~Willa Cather

The voice is a wild thing. It can't be bred in captivity.

~Willa Cather

Men travel faster now, but I do not know if they go to better things.

~Willa Cather

People live through such pain only once. Pain comes againâ€”but it finds a tougher surface.

~Willa Cather

The dead might as well try to speak to the living as the old to the young.

~Willa Cather

Some things are best learned in calm, others in storm.

~Willa Cather

People have to snatch at happiness when they can, in this world. It is always easier to lose than to find.

~Willa Cather

Every artist makes herself born. You must bring the artist into the world yourself.

~Willa Cather

The air was cool enough to make the warm sun pleasant on one's back and shoulders, and so clear that the eye could follow a hawk up and up, into the blazing blue depths of the sky.

~Willa Cather

There was nothing but land; not a country at all, but the material out of which countries are made.

~Willa Cather

Every artist makes himself born. It is very much harder than the other time, and longer.

~Willa Cather

Success is less interesting than struggle. There is great pleasure in the effort.

~Willa Cather

The world is little, people are little, human life is little. There is only one big thing â€” desire.

~Willa Cather

Life began for me, when I ceased to admire and began to remember.

~Willa Cather

The condition every art requires is, not so much freedom from restriction, as freedom from adulteration and from the intrusion of foreign matter.

~Willa Cather

When the eyes of the flesh are shut, the eyes of the spirit are open.

~Willa Cather

It's all very well to tell us to forgive our enemies; our enemies can never hurt us very much. But oh, what about forgiving our friends?

~Willa Cather

Desire is creation, is the magical element in that process. If there were an instrument by which to measure desire, one could foretell achievement.

~Willa Cather

A pioneer should have imagination, should be able to enjoy the idea of things more than the things themselves.

~Willa Cather

Too much detail is apt, like any other form of extravagance, to become slightly vulgar.

~Willa Cather

No one can build his security upon the nobleness of another person.

~Willa Cather

In this world people have to pay an extortionate price for any exceptional gift whatever.

~Willa Cather

Paris is a hard place to leave, even when it rains incessantly and one coughs continually from the dampness.

~Willa Cather

The great fact was the land itself, which seemed to overwhelm the little beginnings of human society that struggled in its sombre wastes.

~Willa Cather

We come and go, but the land is always here. And the people who love it and understand it are the people who own it - for a little while.

~Willa Cather

The only thing very noticeable about Nebraska was that it was still, all day long, Nebraska.

~Willa Cather

Love itself draws on a woman nearly all the bad luck in the world

~Willa Cather

I tell you there is such a thing as creative hate.

~Willa Cather

Only a Woman, divine, could know all that a woman can suffer.

~Willa Cather

I wondered if the life that was right for one was ever right for two!

~Willa Cather

Let your fiction grow out of the land beneath your feet.

~Willa Cather

Some people's lives are affected by what happens to their person or their property; but for others fate is what happens to their feelings and their thoughts -- that and nothing more.

~Willa Cather

Oh, that's the beauty of the rose, that it blossoms and dies.

~Willa Cather

There is often a good deal of the child left in people who have had to grow up too soon.

~Willa Cather

The trouble is you almost have to marry a man before you can find out the sort of wife he needs; and usually it's exactly the sort you are not.

~Willa Cather

The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman.

~Willa Cather

We all like people who do things, even if we only see their faces on cigar-box lids.

~Willa Cather

A burnt dog dreads the fire.

~Willa Cather

Hunger is a powerful incentive to introspection.

~Willa Cather

The more observing ones may have seen, but discerning people are usually discreet and often kind, for we usually bleed a little before we begin to discern.

~Willa Cather

A child's attitude toward everything is an artist's attitude.

~Willa Cather

Today I stood taller from walking among the trees.

~Willa Cather

Now I understood that the same road was to bring us together again. Whatever we had missed, we possessed together the precious, the incommunicable past.

~Willa Cather

Ah! the terror and the delight of that moment when first we fear ourselves! Until then we have not lived.

~Willa Cather

Only solitary men know the full joys of friendship. Others have their family; but to a solitary and an exile, his friends are everything.

~Willa Cather

She had only to stand in the orchard, to put her hand on a little crab tree and look up at the apples, to make you feel the goodness of planting and tending and harvesting at last.

~Willa Cather

Sometimes I wonder why God ever trusts talent in the hands of women, they usually make such an infernal mess of it. I think He must do it as a

sort of ghastly joke.

~Willa Cather

Art, it seems to me, should simplify.

~Willa Cather

One may have staunch friends in one's own family, but one seldom has admirers.

~Willa Cather

There was a new kind of strength in the gravity of her face, and her colors still gave her that look of deep-seated health and ardor.

~Willa Cather

The two friends stood for a few moments on the windy street corner, not speaking a word, as two travelers, who have lost their way, sometimes stand and admit their perplexity in silence. (O Pioneers!)

~Willa Cather

It is easy to pity when once one's vanity has been tickled.

~Willa Cather

Late one brilliant April afternoon Professor Lucius Wilson stood at the head of Chestnut Street, looking about him with the pleased air of a man of taste who does not very often get to Boston.

~Willa Cather

When kindness has left people, even for a few moments, we become afraid of them, as if their reason had left them.

~Willa Cather

Our tree became the talking tree of the fairy tale; legends and stories nestled like birds in its branches.

~Willa Cather

A soup like this is not the work of one man. It is the result of a constantly refined tradition. There are nearly a thousand years of history in this soup.

~Willa Cather

Nothing mattered ... but writing books, and living the kind of life that made it possible to write them.

~Willa Cather

Personal life becomes paler as the imaginative life becomes richer.

~Willa Cather

After all, the supreme virtue in all art is soul, perhaps it is the only thing which gives art a right to be.

~Willa Cather

Freedom so often means that one isn't needed anywhere.

~Willa Cather

Loyal? As loyal as anyone who plays second fiddle ever is.

~Willa Cather

One summer evening in the year 1848, three Cardinals and a missionary were dining together in the gardens of a villa in the Sabine hills, overlooking Rome.

~Willa Cather

Beautiful women, whose beauty meant more than it said... was their brilliancy always fed by something coarse and concealed? Was that their secret?

~Willa Cather

It is cremated youth. It is all yours--no one gave it to you.

~Willa Cather

No nation has ever produced great art that has not made a high art of cookery, because art appeals primarily to the senses.

~Willa Cather

Prayers said by good people are always good prayers

~Willa Cather

How terrible it was to love people when you could not really share their lives!

~Willa Cather

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