

William Congreve

Quotes

Men, May, Love, Play, Mind, Thinking, Marriage, Beauty, Wise, Inspirational, Hate, Giving, Country, Confusion, Criticism, Littles, World, Music, Charm, One Day

Come, come, leave business to idlers, and wisdom to fools: they have need of 'em: wit be my faculty, and pleasure my occupation, and let father Time shake his glass.

~William Congreve

Music has charms to sooth a savage breast, to soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak.

~William Congreve

Fear comes from uncertainty. When we are absolutely certain, whether of our worth or worthlessness, we are almost impervious to fear.

~William Congreve

Women are like tricks by sleight of hand, Which, to admire, we should not understand

~William Congreve

Say what you will, 'tis better to be left than never to have been loved.

~William Congreve

He who closes his ears to the views of others shows little confidence in the integrity of his own views.

~William Congreve

'Tis well enough for a servant to be bred at an University. But the education is a little too pedantic for a gentleman.

~William Congreve

Nor Hell a Fury, like a Woman scorn'd.

~William Congreve

Thou art a retailer of phrases, and dost deal in remnants of remnants.

~William Congreve

Nothing but you can lay hold of my mind, and that can lay hold of nothing but you.

~William Congreve

In my conscience I believe the baggage loves me, for she never speaks well of me herself, nor suffers any body else to rail at me.

~William Congreve

Love's but the frailty of the mind, When 'tis not with ambition joined; A sickly flame, which if not fed expires; And feeding, wastes in self-consuming fires.

~William Congreve

I find we are growing serious, and then we are in great danger of being dull.

~William Congreve

Turn pimp, flatterer, quack, lawyer, parson, be chaplain to an atheist, or stallion to an old woman, anything but a poet; for a poet is worse, more servile, timorous and fawning than any I have named.

~William Congreve

Uncertainty and expectation are the joys of life. Security is an insipid thing.

~William Congreve

There are times when sense may be unseasonable, as well as truth.

~William Congreve

No mask like open truth to cover lies, As to go naked is the best disguise.

~William Congreve

There is in true Beauty, as in Courage, somewhat which narrow Souls

cannot dare to admire.

~William Congreve

Women like flames have a destroying power; never to be quenched till they themselves devour.

~William Congreve

Delay not till tomorrow to be wise; tomorrow's sun to thee may never rise.

~William Congreve

Courtship is to marriage, as a very witty prologue to a very dull play.

~William Congreve

You are a woman: you must never speak what you think; your words must contradict your thoughts, but your actions may contradict your words.

~William Congreve

Wit must be foiled by wit: cut a diamond with a diamond.

~William Congreve

A wit should no more be sincere, than a woman constant; one argues a decay of parts, as to other of beauty.

~William Congreve

Thus in this sad, but oh, too pleasing state! my soul can fix upon nothing but thee; thee it contemplates, admires, adores, nay depends on, trusts on you alone.

~William Congreve

Whoever is king, is also the father of his country.

~William Congreve

They are at the end of the gallery; retired to their tea and scandal,
according to their ancient custom.

~William Congreve

Invention flags, his brain goes muddy, And black despair succeeds
brown study.

~William Congreve

Musick has Charms to sooth a savage Breast...

~William Congreve

Thus grief still treads upon the heels of pleasure; Married in haste, we
may repent at leisure.

~William Congreve

She likes herself, yet others hates, For that which in herself she prizes;
And while she laughs at them, forgets She is the thing that she
despises.

~William Congreve

I confess freely to you, I could never look long upon a monkey, without
very mortifying reflections.

~William Congreve

A little scorn is alluring.

~William Congreve

I came up stairs into the world, for I was born in a cellar.

~William Congreve

No, I'm no enemy to learning; it hurts not me.

~William Congreve

A woman only obliges a man to secrecy, that she may have the

pleasure of telling herself.

~William Congreve

If there's delight in love, 'Tis when I see that heart, which others bleed for, bleed for me.

~William Congreve

O fie, miss, you must not kiss and tell.

~William Congreve

A hungry wolf at all the herd will run, In hopes, through many, to make sure of one.

~William Congreve

Beauty is the lover's gift.

~William Congreve

O, she is the antidote to desire.

~William Congreve

How hard a thing 'twould be to please you all.

~William Congreve

Mr Witwould: "Pray, madam, do you pin up your hair with all your letters? I find I must keep copies." Mrs Millamant: "Only with those in verse.... I never pin up my hair with prose."

~William Congreve

There is nothing more unbecoming a man of quality than to laugh ... 'tis such a vulgar expression of the passion!

~William Congreve

It is the business of a comic poet to paint the vices and follies of human kind.

~William Congreve

Music alone with sudden charms can bind
The wand'ring sense, and calm the troubled mind.

~William Congreve

These articles subscribed, if I continue to endure you a little longer, I
may by degrees dwindle into wife.

~William Congreve

He that first cries out stop thief, is often he that has stolen the treasure.

~William Congreve

Words are the weak support of cold indifference; love has no language
to be heard.

~William Congreve

O, nothing is more alluring than a levee from a couch in some
confusion.

~William Congreve

Blessings ever wait on virtuous deeds, and though a late, a sure reward
succeeds.

~William Congreve

To converse with Scandal is to play at Losing Loadum, you must lose a
good name to him, before you can win it for yourself.

~William Congreve

Some by experience find those words mis-placed: At leisure married,
they repent in haste.

~William Congreve

Honor is a public enemy, and conscience a domestic, and he that

would secure his pleasure, must pay a tribute to one and go halves with t'other.

~William Congreve

Men are apt to offend ('tis true) where they find most goodness to forgive.

~William Congreve

All well bred persons lie - Besides, you are a woman; you must never speak what you think.

~William Congreve

Hannibal was a very pretty fellow in those days.

~William Congreve

Though marriage makes man and wife one flesh, it leaves 'em still two fools.

~William Congreve

I know that's a secret, for it's whispered everywhere.

~William Congreve

Every man plays the fool once in his live, but to marry is playing the fool all one's life long.

~William Congreve

One minute gives invention to destroy; What to rebuild, will a whole age employ.

~William Congreve

They come together like the Coroner's Inquest, to sit upon the murdered reputations of the week.

~William Congreve

Guilt is ever at a loss, and confusion waits upon it; when innocence and bold truth are always ready for expression.

~William Congreve

Marriage indeed may qualify the fury of his passion, but it very rarely mends a man's manners.

~William Congreve

I hope you do not think me prone to any iteration of nuptials.

~William Congreve

There are come Critics so with Spleen diseased, They scarcely come inclining to be pleased: And sure he must have more than mortal Skill, Who please one against his Will.

~William Congreve

I nauseate walking; 'tis a country diversion, I loathe the country.

~William Congreve

O ay, letters - I had letters - I am persecuted with letters - I hate letters - nobody knows how to write letters; and yet one has 'em, one does not know why - they serve one to pin up one's hair.

~William Congreve

Marriage is honourable, as you say; and if so, wherefore should Cuckoldom be a Discredit, being deriv'd from so honourable a Root?

~William Congreve

To find a young fellow that is neither a wit in his own eye, nor a fool in the eye of the world, is a very hard task.

~William Congreve

If this be not love, it is madness, and then it is pardonable.

~William Congreve

Love's but a frailty of the mind, When 'tis not with ambition joined.

~William Congreve

I am always of the opinion with the learned, if they speak first.

~William Congreve

I know a lady that loves to talk so incessantly, she won't give an echo fair play; she has that everlasting rotation of tongue that an echo must wait till she dies before it can catch her last words!

~William Congreve

Who pleases one against his will.

~William Congreve

I always take blushing either for a sign of guilt, or of ill breeding.

~William Congreve

I am a fool, I know it; and yet, Heaven help me, I'm poor enough to be a wit.

~William Congreve

If happiness in self-content is placed, The wise are wretched, and fools only blessed.

~William Congreve

Let us be very strange and well-bred: Let us be as strange as if we had been married a great while; And as well-bred as if we were not married at all.

~William Congreve

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