

William Maxwell

Quotes

*Lying, People, Doors, Typewriters, Memories, Book, Reader, Past, Get Back,
Humility, Children, Authority, Reading, Deprivation, Happiness, Father,
Considering, Patient, Moved, Literature*

His sadness was of the kind that is patient and without hope.

~William Maxwell

Happiness is the light on the water. The water is cold and dark and deep.

~William Maxwell

My younger daughter told me recently that when she was a child she thought the typewriter was a toy that I went into my room and closed the door and played with.

~William Maxwell

If you turn the imagination loose like a hunting dog, it will often return with the bird in its mouth.

~William Maxwell

Love, even of the most ardent and soul-destroying kind, is never caught by the lens of the camera.

~William Maxwell

Reading is rapture (or if it isn't, I put the book down meaning to go on with it later, and escape out the side door).

~William Maxwell

Your reader is at least as bright as you are

~William Maxwell

I had inadvertently walked through a door that I shouldn't have gone through and couldn't get back to the place I hadn't meant to leave.

~William Maxwell

What we refer to confidently as memory is really a form of storytelling that goes on continually in the mind and often changes with the telling.

~William Maxwell

In talking about the past, we lie with every breath we draw.

~William Maxwell

A writer is a reader who is moved to emulation.

~William Maxwell

Satin and lace and brown velvet and the faint odor of violets. That was all which was left to him of his love.

~William Maxwell

The nail doesn't choose the time or the circumstances in which it is drawn to the magnet

~William Maxwell

It was lovely when you found students who responded to things you were enthusiastic about.

~William Maxwell

A gentleman doesn't have one set of manners for the house of a poor man and another for the house of someone with an income incomparable to his own.

~William Maxwell

The reason life is so strange is that so often people have no choice.

~William Maxwell

My father represented authority, which meant "to me" that he could not also represent understanding.

~William Maxwell

I am the cat that walks alone.

~William Maxwell

Who knows what oversensitive is, considering all there is to be

sensitive to.

~William Maxwell

It's deprivation that makes people writers, if they have it in them to be a writer.

~William Maxwell

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