

Winifred Holtby

Quotes

*Writing, Men, Thinking, Mean, Book, Distance, Needs, Doe, Strong, Body,
Regret, People, Time, Grief, Happiness, Progress, Animal, Havens, Ends,
Sarcasm*

The things that one most wants to do are the things that are probably most worth doing.

~Winifred Holtby

The crown of life is neither happiness nor annihilation; it is understanding.

~Winifred Holtby

Is this the final treachery of time, that the old become a burden upon the young?

~Winifred Holtby

This alone is to be feared - the closed mind, the sleeping imagination, the death of the spirit. The death of the body is to that, I think, a little thing.

~Winifred Holtby

A sense of humor is so handy, isn't it? It lets you see both sides of a question so that you never need do anything.

~Winifred Holtby

Nature is not silent, and never was a name more derisively inappropriate than when we speak of these non-human creatures who hoot and crow and bray as the dumb animals.

~Winifred Holtby

I am much perturbed by this business of sickness. Our bodies seem so easily to leap into the saddle where our minds should be. People who are ill become changelings.

~Winifred Holtby

We each live in a private, distorted, individual world - stars turning in space, warmed for a moment by each other's light, then lost in infinite distance.

~Winifred Holtby

it is the brevity of life which makes it tolerable; its experiences have value because they have an end.

~Winifred Holtby

There's never been a lack of men willing to die bravely. The trouble is to find a few able to live sensibly.

~Winifred Holtby

I am fierce for work. Without work I am nothing.

~Winifred Holtby

no truth is strong enough to defeat a well-established legend.

~Winifred Holtby

Really, trees are nearly as important as men, and much better behaved.

~Winifred Holtby

The world, with all its beauty and adventure, its richness and variety, is darkened by cruelty. Death, if it ends the loveliness, the adventure, ends also that. Death balances the picture.

~Winifred Holtby

Life flows on over death as water closes over a stone dropped into a pool. ... Fate is certain; death is certain; but the courage and nobility of men and women matter more than these.

~Winifred Holtby

the damned book I am writing is like the driveling of a weak-kneed sea calf. If I were sufficiently strong minded, I should tear it up an start again. But I don't.

~Winifred Holtby

What a strange distance there is between ill people and well ones.

~Winifred Holtby

Love needs the stiffening of respect, the give and take of equality.

~Winifred Holtby

Oh, time betrays us. Time is the great enemy.

~Winifred Holtby

But questioning does not mean the end of loving, and loving does not mean the abnegation of intelligence

~Winifred Holtby

The greatest mercy, I have often thought, of the Mediterranean coast lies in its mosquitoes. Did we not suffer from their unwelcome attention, we could not bear our holidays to end.

~Winifred Holtby

It's the things you don't do, not the things you do, you feel most sorry for.

~Winifred Holtby

Youth knows no remedy for grief but death.

~Winifred Holtby

I advise nobody to drown sorrow in cocoa. It is bad for the figure and it does not alleviate the sorrow.

~Winifred Holtby

why haven't we seventy lives? One is no use.

~Winifred Holtby

The only difficulty is to know what bits to choose and what to leave out. Novel-writing is not creation, it is selection.

~Winifred Holtby

Progress? It ought to be stopped, that's what I say. If the Lord meant chickens to come out of incubators he'd never have made hens, it stands to reason.

~Winifred Holtby

[On golf:] One of the most distressing defects of civilization.

~Winifred Holtby

Everybody's tragedy is somebody's nuisance.

~Winifred Holtby

Progress. There's a good deal too much o' this progress about nowadays, an', what's more, it'll have to stop.

~Winifred Holtby

All adventuring is rash, and all innovations dangerous. But not nearly so dangerous as stagnation and dry rot. From grooves, cliques, clichés and resignation - Good Lord deliver us!

~Winifred Holtby

What with the reviews of critics, the sarcasms of one's friends, the reproaches of one's own taste, there's precious little peace after publishing a book.

~Winifred Holtby

Surely, if life is good, it is good throughout its substance; we cannot separate men's activities from women's and say, these are worthy of praise and these unworthy.

~Winifred Holtby

If we haven't a grouch against Fortune, we seem unable to avoid one against ourselves.

~Winifred Holtby

The more I see of dogs, the more I like children.

~Winifred Holtby

the ruder lecturers are, and the louder their voices, the more converts they make to their opinions.

~Winifred Holtby

Teachers have power. We may cripple them by petty economics; by Government regulations, by the foolish criticism of an uninformed press; but their power exists for good or evil.

~Winifred Holtby

Those who prepare for war get it.

~Winifred Holtby

If you are rich, you have lovely cars, and jars full of flowers, and books in rows, and a wireless, and the best sort of gramophone and meringues for supper.

~Winifred Holtby

But to write - that is grief and labor; and to read what one has written - how unlike the story as one saw it; how dull, how spiritless - that is enough to send one weeping to bed.

~Winifred Holtby

Remorse ... is one of the many afflictions for which time finds a cure.

~Winifred Holtby

I like a bit of color myself, I must say. At my time of life, if you wear nothing but black, people might think you were too mean to change frocks between funerals.

~Winifred Holtby

Most gay, conversational, careless, lovely city ... where one drinks golden Tokay until one feels most beautiful, and warm and loved - oh, Budapesth!

~Winifred Holtby

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