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Quotes by Waugh, Evelyn

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Arthur Evelyn St. John Waugh best known as Evelyn Waugh (October 28, 1903 April 10, 1966) was an English satirical novelist, brother of Alec Waugh and father of Auberon Waugh. He is generally regarded as one the the greatest figures in English literature in the 20th century.

Other nations use force; we Britons alone use Might.

- Waugh, Evelyn

We cherish our friends not for their ability to amuse us, but for our ability to amuse them.

- Waugh, Evelyn

The human mind is inspired enough when it comes to inventing horrors; it is when it tries to invent a Heaven that it shows itself cloddish.

- Waugh, Evelyn

If, for instance, they have heard something from the postman, they attribute it to a semi-official statement; if they have fallen into conversation with a stranger at a bar, they can conscientiously describe him as a source that has hitherto proved unimpeachable. It is only when the journalist is reporting a whim of his own, and one to which he attaches minor importance, that he defines it as the opinion of well-informed circles.

- Waugh, Evelyn

Manners are especially the need of the plain. The pretty can get away with anything.

- Waugh, Evelyn

News is what a chap who doesn't care much about anything wants to read. And it's only news until he's read it. After that it's dead.

- Waugh, Evelyn

It is a curious thing that every creed promises a paradise which will be absolutely uninhabitable for anyone of civilized taste.

- Waugh, Evelyn

An artist must be a reactionary. He has to stand out against the tenor of the age and not go flopping along.

- Waugh, Evelyn

Don't give your opinions about Art and the Purpose of Life. They are of little interest and, anyway, you can't express them. Don't analyze yourself. Give the relevant facts and let your readers make their own judgments. Stick to your story. It is not the most important subject in history but it is one about which you are uniquely qualified to speak.

- Waugh, Evelyn

Anyone who has been to an English public school will always feel comparatively at home

in prison. It is the people brought up in the gay intimacy of the slums who find prison so soul-destroying.

- Waugh, Evelyn

Punctuality is the virtue of the bored.

- Waugh, Evelyn

In the dying world I come from quotation is a national vice. It used to be the classics, now it's lyric verse.

- Waugh, Evelyn

Saints are simply men and women who have fulfilled their natural obligation which is to approach God.

- Waugh, Evelyn

That's the public-school system all over. They may kick you out, but they never let you down.

- Waugh, Evelyn

If politicians and scientist were lazier, how much happier we should all be.

- Waugh, Evelyn

All this fuss about sleeping together. For physical pleasure I'd sooner go to my dentist any

day.

- Waugh, Evelyn

Only when one has lost all curiosity about the future has one reached the age to write an autobiography.

- Waugh, Evelyn

If we can't stamp out literature in the country, we can at least stop its being brought in from outside.

- Waugh, Evelyn

One forgets words as one forgets names. One's vocabulary needs constant fertilizing or it will die.

- Waugh, Evelyn

What is youth except a man or a woman before it is ready or fit to be seen.

- Waugh, Evelyn

His courtesy was somewhat extravagant. He would write and thank people who wrote to thank him for wedding presents and when he encountered anyone as punctilious as himself the correspondence ended only with death.

- Waugh, Evelyn

Almost all crime is due to the repressed desire for aesthetic expression.

- Waugh, Evelyn



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