

book of quotes

"The less people see, the more they can make up
in their mind." - Carrie Cutlip

by Kris Kemp
*unless otherwise noted

... at times, moments, like raindrops, fall into the lap of your life, and, although you never intended to be affected, you begin to change, realizing that the gentlest glance, the whispered offhand remark, the slight movement of restless fingers leaves you speechless, captured by unintended scenes strung together in the drama of your life ... when butterflies precious take flight until concession surfaces for air; gestures are the doors to the hinges of the heart.

You are kissed by clouds, colored by rainbows, stirred by the indifference of the masses, crippled by cars, yet freed by bicycles, fueled by passions overlooked by those chained to the treadmill of mediocrity, eclectic, electric like a bionic dumpster diver, whose eyes spill innocence mixed with ambition, focused, not yet tainted by the tint of cynicism, a catalyst for those ignited by the strength of being gentile and kind ... for those fighting gravity, engaged to actions anchored fast to beliefs ... the campfires left, the warmth it creates remains a refreshing option from the monster box of media that traps its victims to the propaganda crosses of martyrdom ...

In one way or another, everyone is a drug addict.

We're on top of the world and we don't even know it. We're on top of a volcano that's just waiting to be uncapped. (My reference to the Unarmed Underground Art Center, an artists collective where I lived.)

Every dumpster is an opportunity. When you dumpster dive, Christmas is every week.

If you keep things out of view, they cease to exist.

They make toothpaste for you to feel less alone.

Imagination may be the greatest of all vehicles, taking far beyond the limits of time and space.

Manipulation is a comfortable chair.

One of the best ways to introduce truth is through humor.

Dreams are the flashlight; time is the battery.

A step in the wrong direction ... at least it's a step. (You can only trip when you're moving.)

Humor is the truth wrapped in a blanket.

The best health insurance is what's on your plate.

Gestures are the hinges to the doors of the heart.

Love is a strange animal. (And not everyone is strong, patient, or willing enough to earn its loyalty.)

Every noise, a siren.
Every gesture, an emergency.
Every moment, a photograph
Every memory, a raison' de etre'.

The road is a hungry girlfriend.

One day, you're gonna die.

Namebrands put a name on a nameless desire, allowing us to identify with, and participate in, a myth that is not our own making.

Maybe poverty is the price of sanity. (Sometimes the freedom in being poor, and the demand for creativity that stems from the lack of options, allows you to see through the clutter.)

The world outside is a storm. It's safe in my head. I am not alone.

Truth is the backseat driver to commerce.

The world seems less cruel when you have someone to share it with, or hide from it with.

Women come and go, but cable is forever.

Regardless of my kind words of encouragement, to Kim or anyone else for that matter, these verbal softballs will plummet to the ground, unable to be caught, then held in the nest of gloves whose pocket is familiar enough to accommodate such compliments. What a shame.

She's always going off on something. For her, every event is a diving board.

"You're so dramatic."

"That's the only way to be in a world that thinks too much and feels too little."

- This is a line of dialogue from the Geronimo Clock, a play that I am writing.

Humor is cruel.

Sometimes experience can get in the way of originality.

Wealth without conscience remains the great unspoken irony of America.

Losing something is cathartic.

When you have nothing, you have nothing to lose.

Don't sacrifice nutrition on the altar of convenience.

Poverty welcomes creativity. (Especially when you're grocery shopping.)

She was hiccuping. She smelled like beer. It was beautiful.

You can't please everyone, but you can die trying.

Overeating is criminal.

It's a hamster wheel for the disenfranchised.

The only way to know how much you can chew is to bite off more than you can chew.

You want the benefits of friendship without the responsibility of intimacy.

Conviction is guilt with a purpose.

The potholes are only as big as you want them to be.

Poverty is the price of freedom. (Besides, money usually creates more options which lead to confusion.)

Art doesn't belong to those who mke it. Art belongs to those who need it.

Sometimes vices seem to be the only thing we can call our own.

Don't confuse attention with self worth. One imprisons you. The other liberates you.

Hard shells hide soft nuts. (In other words, sometimes the reason a person is so hard on the outside is due to the fact that they are protecting a soft part of themselves that has been bruised.)

Fame shuts you off from what inspired you in the first place.

A bad memory makes for good friendships.

My light bulb would only be 60 watt if I had not met her, dim, with each object revealing less details. Carrie helps you remember the beauty of each moment.

Everyone is religous. Fervency finds different altars.
For some, their car is their pew.
For some, their partner is their temple.
For some, television is their shrine, and cable, their coduit to God.

Sometimes, at family get togethers, I feel like a paper doll, looking out through my eyes like a goldfish watching from his aquarium.

Sometimes it's easier to learn more from people's follies than their triumphs.

People are like computers. They both have buttons. It's just a matter of knowing which ones to push.

Coffee gives you the illusion of control. - Carrie Cutlip

Drop the sedative that is TV.

Don't let routine become your handcuffs.

Don't worry about what the world thinks of you. Be concerned with what The Creator of the world thinks of you.

Don't be a broken water fountain of information. Wait until someone walks up to take a drink.

Chocolate is a gateway food.

Decorations are tiny nightmares looking for a home.

You make me want to read.

"What does a man value? This question can be answered by another. What does the man suffer for?"

- dialogue from dumpster diver ... the musical

Visit the monster but don't become its food.

Most people who blame their misfortune on having been dealt a bad deck of cards are not playing by the rules anyway.

I eat chocolate when I miss people.

Real shaving cream consists of soap and water.

The less people see, the more they can make up in their mind. - Carrie Cutlip

People who are boring generally have to spend a lot of money to have fun. - Carrie Cutlip

She resents people that she worries about. - Carrie Cutlip

The more people are kept in the dark, the more they can make up in their mind. - Carrie Cutlip

Trying to put together a magazine is like trying to feed people who aren't really hungry--you have to make it interesting enough so they will pick it up, even if they are full. - Carrie Cutlip

Murder your alternatives. - Carrie Cutlip

Give people more than what they're bargaining for. - Carrie Cutlip

If it's free, there wouldn't be anything at stake. - Carrie Cutlip

Love is a commitment, not a feeling. - Carrie Cutlip

Expectations are premeditated resentments. - Alex Wells

Unless you know what you're hungry for, you'll inevitably get caught up in the machinery of something, someplace, or someone. - Darrell Higgins

The internet is the dustpan of the information society. - Andy Cotter

People like to play games and f__k around with you and use your thoughts and make them an ashtray for their own thoughts. - Wendy LaShane

Just play. Hit any key. Play the song that's in your heart. That's the wonderful thing about life.
- Wendy LaShane

Maybe I've already ... overdosed on humanity. That's why I'm gonna sit in my room and write books. Drink whiskey and listen to old, sad jazz records. I'm not going to be like the others who run in this hamster wheel of hope, hoping that the person they are in love with will change because they caught a glimpse, the smallest speck of beauty somewhere in the cracks of who they are, and clung to it like a life preserver bobbing in the sea of confusion, drowning, in the sea of uncertainty that is humanity. A hard edged society deserves a hard edged f__ _ ing wake up call. - Wendy LaShane

Sometimes I feel like gravity is the only thing keeping me on the ground. - Audrey Simpson

People chase firetrucks. - Audrey Simpson

Uncertainties provide us with variety. Uncertainties provide us with the basic necessities we need everyday. A balance of certainty and uncertainty is required to keep a relationship alive. Because the uncertainties provide the spontaneity. - Neil Hoag

It's been said that you can't take it with you, but it seems as if we all die trying.

Certain truths are so ironic that everyone agrees to ignore their consequences. The reward for truth, it seems, is cynicism. Those that are told the truth, often act indignant, disbelieving, sarcastic, usually brushing it off like unwanted dust that clouds their vision. Why? The more you know, the more responsible you become.

Omniscience is the zenith of responsibility.

Familiarity is a hard friend to leave.

TV is an anchor, keeping its audience in one place. Most programming keeps its viewers drugged, training them to associate immorality with freedom, attention with self worth, beauty with superficial physical features. That's why they call it programming.

Television is a legal narcotic. TV takes your mind off your mind. Television is crack. Cable television is mainlining cocaine. Cable television, with premium movie channels, is an endless supply of top shelf heroin, room service, and a beautiful friend--a honeymoon that's hard to unplug.

Frequently, being "open minded" or "nonjudgemental" is merely an exercise for "lack of better judgement".

The adventure in living is inversely porportional to the level of uncertainty involved.

Every phone is a pay phone.

Money's overrated.

Ambition is a great cosmetic.

Attitude is more important than intelligence.

Wisdom kills youth.

Truth is not relative.

If it costs money, it's not worth buying.

You have malls.

I have dumpsters.

You have second hand stores (thrift stores).

I have third hand stores (dumpsters). (Third hand stores - coined by Ryan Johnson, an actor friend of mine.)

You have drive thru (restuarants).

I have dive thru (dumpsters).

from: dumpster diver ... the musical

I'm codependent with dumpsters.

The expiration date is the day you put it into your mouth.

Prune the tree of your life. Let the dead branches fall so the one producing fruit can receive more nourishment. Plant your dreams deep in the soil. A good foundation, and proper care on a consistent basis, often finds reward in a tree that provides shade, beauty, and fruit to its visitors long after the sower has left the scene.

Discover The Lord Jesus Christ, and find a new world--Heaven--worth working for!

I can't change this world but I know Someone Who can, and did--The Lord Jesus Christ!

If being melancholy was a virtue, he'd be a saint.
- I wrote this description of my dad in Pictures of The Leftover Generation

Thanks. Thanks a lot.

The little things--acts of kindness, thoughtfulness, consideration, and selflessness--remain the glue that holds relationships together for extended periods of time. In general, people are very fragile and insecure. Like shattered vessels, they cannot contain, or give encouragement unless they can first receive it. Words harm and words heal. Use words that heal. Help reassemble a broken spirit. Share The Hope of a new life that is found in dying to self, and living for The Lord Jesus Christ.

Follow your dreams, even if they only exist in your imagination.

Follow your dreams, because they follow you.

Dirty shirts are the real calendars of this world. (Stains help you remember great events.)
from: bicycle days

Every tree is a bathroom.

By lowering the drawbridge of your inhibitions, you can attack the castle of your heart. When the drawbridge of inhibitions is lowered, the castle of your heart may be reached.

Anger is the microscope of reason.

Conviction without action is like an abandoned car, useless, refusing to be driven by anyone else, an eyesore, a magnet attracting other cars of a similar nature, resigned to the nursing home for cars--the tow yard or the junk yard--awaiting disposal for scrap metal in order to be used for some good.

Conceal the treasures of your body in the safety deposit box of your clothing.
from: a letter I wrote to a friend, a girl, who dressed provocatively

Girls, Women ... Be cautious how you dress. Guys do not deserve to be treated to the buffet of your body, the smorgasboard of your physical appearance. The only person who deserves and earns that privilege is your husband.

Your enthusiasm will be worthless if you act excited about anything. It's the equivalent of leaving a gas burner on high all the time. Over time, the gas runs out, and you have no emotional gas for yourself. You feel empty, spent, exhausted. Don't give your enthusiasm to everyone. Parcel it out for the prize it is. Otherwise, it will be scorned, discarded, and looked at with contempt by its recipients.

Television is the modern, electronic fireplace. The internet is the modern, electronic fireplace.

Your enthusiasm, approval, encouragement is akin to a car battery. It has a lifespan, a limited one. Do not waste it, put it to bad use, or lay it at the cross of someone who is being martyred for dreams you don't believe in. Otherwise, you will feel depleted, tired, and have no approval left for yourself because you have given it to everyone else.

Human nature has no warning signs.

Love is not a progressive dinner.

If you are reading this right now, you are living in the future. Are you watching it pass by? Or, are you helping to shape what will later be known as history?

Don't confuse busyness with productivity. You may be able to accomplish more if you incorporate short, but frequent breaks in your schedule.

The person that does not know what they are hungry for will feed off the person that does, eventually claiming territorial rights as they cannibalize their victim.

Don't hold your body hostage to your taste buds.

Live with vigor and enthusiasm. Stoke the coals of your imagination to create a warm campfire, a source of light, a harbor from the cold, a place for others to participate in your dreams.

Many people choose to be miserable. Happiness carries with it a responsibility that they refuse to bear.

When it comes to life, some people call it playing hooky. Others call it dodgeball. I call it living.

Everything that doesn't define you, confines you.

People that don't get a lot of attention become attention addicts. And they have to protect their suppliers.
Grace Kemp (Bible teacher, writer, scholar; www.gracekemp.com)

If you're living in sin, you have to keep the music loud.
Grace Kemp (Bible teacher, writer, scholar; www.gracekemp.com)

Understanding that today's action will be tomorrow's history is truly liberating.

As long as you're smiling, it's legal.
Earl Sherrill (chef)

Make history, because you're living in it.

If you're used to crumbs, you probably haven't developed an appetite for anything more.

Moments, seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years. Make every moment count.

On the road of life, kindness and consideration cover a multitude of potholes.

Those who work with their muscle can be replaced by a stronger guy. Work with your brain. You can accumulate knowledge working with your brain. With your muscle, you accumulate wear and tear.
David Knight (Bahamian born entrepreneur)

The internet is a great place for spreading The Gospel. Like a giant mall, it's crowded with people looking for something to fill the void in their lives.

It's not the length of our life, but the depth by which we live it.

Writing a diary is like cleaning out the closet of your mind.

When the memories of what you have experienced outweigh the promise of tomorrow, you find yourself looking back. And you cannot make progress if you're looking back.

Relationships are like dumpster diving. You never know what you'll find until you dive in.

However misleading, sins are often wrapped in affectionate phrases. Fellowshiping--the gathering of people around the common denominator of food--sometimes descends into the realm of gluttony. Socializing--interacting with others for the purpose of recreation--usually involves leisurely activities that produce little fruit. The word Christian means "little Christ". As Christians, we are called to live differently than the world, not similarly to the world. Our time here should be spent working for The Kingdom of Heaven, building up the body of believers (The Church), using our gifts and talents to glorify God, fasting, praying, reading The Bible, and reaching the lost with The Gospel of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Living with uncertainty leaves more room for possibilities.

Fear is like a teddy bear, one of the evil kinds that come alive in a scary film. Once you face that teddy bear of fear, look it in the eye. Assess the teddy bear of fear for what it really is--a loose collection of nightmares held together by doubt and worst case scenarios.

Half breed ... combining the familiarity of the past with the restlessness of the future. This is a clothing line concept of mine.

Say what you feel. Better to be innocent and honest than a tactful liar.

Participants of the Leftover Generation include ... people who have fallen into the cracks of the sidewalk and gone unnoticed under the heavy paced footprints of humanity, marginal characters, people taken with dreams they refuse to let go of, people whose face stings from having been slapped by the hands of time, people who are worried but don't know why, uncomfortable for no apparent reason, nervous, restless, torn by the familiarity of the past with the restlessness of the future.

Dumpsters are the grocery stores of the future.

Find something worth dying for, then live for it.

About the hut, the Unarmed Underground Art Center, also known as Flamingo Art Studios ...

The hut is an abandoned ship with Captain Ahab asleep at the wheel. Moby Dick has been captured by someone else with more ambition. A general sense of despair has settled over this discarded soup can of half hearted dreams. Like children afraid to venture out, we stay in the shallow end of the pool, where we can touch bottom. It's a rusty coin where both sides are tails. The sense of excitement has given way to a sense of tension. Keep to yourself and don't ask questions because you never know when you'll step on a land mine. Land ho! Oh, it's just the candy store.

Don't bury your talent. Invest it. Do something with it. That way, it gains interest. Literally.

The safest place is on your knees, beseeching The Lord Jesus Christ, repenting for your sins, praising Him, petitioning Him, asking Him that His will be done in your life, acknowledging Him as The Son of God.

With the right approach, even the mundane can seem beautiful.

His memory is like his hairline: receding.

His worst weapon is his tongue, firing indiscriminately at slow moving targets. His mouth needs a holdster. A silencer would be a good idea, too.

"I don't understand God," he sighed, watching the people pass by.

"But God understands you," I told him, my hand on his shoulder. "He wants to have a relationship with you. So much, in fact, that He gave His only Son, as a sacrifice on the cross, so He could bridge the gap between you and Him."

From a conversation I got in, one night, in downtown West Palm Beach, Florida.

Donuts are nutritional handcuffs purchased by slaves to their sweet tooth.

Donuts are nutritional handcuffs. Surprisingly, we pay to put them on.

Gym memberships are the prison you pay for.

Wake up from your air conditioned slumber!
Repent (turn) from your sins.
Ask Jesus Christ to be Lord of your life and acknowledge Him as the Son of God.
Then, do something for God. Read The Bible. Tell others. Fast. Pray. Tithe. Find a church.
Use your talent for his glory.
Worship God.
Get rid of your idols, your gym memberships, those fashion magazines, cable television, your worldly music collection. Then live wrecklessly for God.
Why not?
You're gonna live forever anyway, right?
So, strive to serve Him with everything you are. Don't hesitate. **START NOW!**
Abandon this world and its material gluttony and spiritual attrition. When it comes to the Truth of The Scriptures, most people are spiritually anorexic.
Serve God with everything you can.
It's the least you can do. Jesus died for you, and rose again for you. Won't you live for Him?

If you grow a moustache, your teeth look whiter.

Today's fad is tomorrow's junk. Today's technology is tomorrow's doorstop.

If it doesn't rot, don't eat it. Eat living foods--fruits, vegetables, seeds, whole grains. Eat raw. Eat live foods because you are a live person with living cells to support. Live foods contain oxygen which your body needs and cells demand. Parts of the body that are short on oxygen end up becoming weak, leaving room for sickness to thrive. Cancer (accumulation of toxins) is found in the regions of the body full of anerobic (oxygen starved) cells.

People seem to think that you must be independently wealthy to retire at a young age.
You can be independently poor and retire at a young age if you want. How? Follow these simple methods.

1) Don't eat out.

- 2) Learn the joys of dumpster diving.
- 3) Avoid Christmas. It's roots come from a pagan holiday anyway.
- 4) See second run movies for \$2, opposed to first run movies for \$8.
- 5) Skip the video rentals. Instead, get your videos, DVD's, CD's, books from your local library.
- 6) Arrange to eat out, at a friends house. (You can bring the video that you checked out from the library.) :-)
- 7) Barter with people. Trade a skill or an object of yours for something of theirs that you need.
- 8) Buy a foreclosure with low monthly payments, or rent a cheap apartment. If the apartments in a bad neighborhood, you can justify furnishing it with curbside finds, as nice furniture may attract burglars.
- 9) Celebrate the freedom found in poverty.
- 10) Cheap fun - tours of waste management facilities, the prison system, games of hide and seek, dumpster olympics, walking, jogging, tree climbing, dancing in the living room to cool music, turning down the TV volume and voicing for the characters.
- 11) Read books.
- 12) Read The Bible.
- 13) Smash that TV.
- 14) Thrift stores.
- 15) Go bike riding.
- 16) Carpool.
- 17) Ride the bus, for kicks. It's like a tabloid TV talk show on Lithium. Bring your favorite snack. Soak up the vibe of public transportation.
- 18) Find a Bible believing church and attend. Get involved.
- 19) Call friends to chat, then tell them what you need. People want to help you get what you want. It's true!

Both fear and excitement produce a similar adrenaline rush--a mixture of anticipation and uncertainty. These feelings are like two sides of a coin, fear being tails, and excitement being heads.

Feed your dreams, until they take shape and grow legs of their own.

Give people a chance to miss you. Give people a reason to miss you. - Carrie Cutlip

We can only get the good fruit, that's ripe for picking, when we go out on the limb. And when we go out on the limb for The Lord Jesus Christ, He is there to protect us from falling. Serve God, boldly and radically. Life is short. Eternity is long.

Don't subsidize foolishness. You have a better chance of getting a positive result from playing the lottery.

Often, when you turn your hobbies into a job, you wrap the gifts you have been given into packages of routine.

If you don't value your time, no one else will.

Some people trade loneliness for a narrow view. In their mind, popular people sacrifice their own opinions and better judgement to win friends.

Tolerance is the embrace that smothers.

Give me your honest opinion.
Honest.
Yeah, don't hold back.
Straight up, right out, huh?
Right out.
Okay.
Go ahead.
It sucks.
Why do you have to be so negative?

conversation idea for a play

A he said, she said soup du jour is a recipe for disaster.

When someones self esteem is submerged, they often drown.

Dreams have a price that time will collect.

Don't make excuses for a town and people that don't deserve it. - Carrie Cutlip

It's not what time does to us, it's what we do with it.

I'm not absent minded, I'm just focused differently. - Cathy

If you let your talents atrophy, you're offending God. - Daria

The truth comes out in sarcasm. - Autumn

Given time, many people second guess themselves to death.

Don't put out fires. Start your own.

Avoid talking politics with him.

Why?

You're likely to uncap the volcano of his mouth, liberating bottled frustrations that have accumulated, like lava, over the years.

God is not limited by our understanding of Him.

His eyes are like a catchers mitt refusing to release the ball, holding on while the opposing team crosses home plate.

Unless time is earmarked for the development of personality enrichment, then the outside appearance remains a hollow shell, a spent bullet. Like a gun with blanks, it leaves no impression.

Once you step to the edge, the world you left loses its appeal.

If you don't have a few enemies, you're probably trying to please too many people.

Encouragement and appreciation is gold. It's rare, in little supply, in high demand, and valuable. Criticism is sand. It's common, plentiful, in low demand, and therefore

cheap. Besides, criticism, like sand, finds its way into your skin and remains an irritant until it's removed.

I wish I had a videocamera on my head, to record moments all too soon forgotten. Later, they cry out from beneath the couch, abandoned coins, hoping to be used. Memories challenge us, panhandling for attention, begging to be arranged into a current worldview.

People do not grow old. Physically, they age. Inside their mind, though, they believe, longing to be convinced that the wonder that accommodates youth remains in reach. It does.

So many run frantic from one place to another, in an effort to save time. The irony is that once they have time, they find ways to kill it, sometimes in ways so self-indulgent as to be destructive.

Don't be ... ditched by doubt, detoured by distraction, potholed by paranoia, roadblocked by restlessness, fenced in by fear, walled in by worry, paralyzed by procrastination.

Some people pour their lives into molded pieces of plastic, making confessions and granting pardons from the end of the telephone. Others push their personalities through the tip of a pen, or tap them into the keys of a typewriter or computer keyboard, hatching their dreams from the safe nest of their imagination. The rest of us pour ourselves into poetry, assembling experiences into a patchwork quilt photo album, connecting the dots of humanity with the lines of possibility. In the end, we all put ourselves out there, walking the tightrope from one end to the other, hoping to be received once we reach the other side.

Don't come between a man and his dreams. Sometimes, his dreams are the only things he can call his own.

My dad's a hippie and a jew, so he's not gonna waste anything. - Rachel Goodman (chef, friend)

Be careful what you laugh at. Generally speaking, laughter represents approval.

Are you getting drunk on distractions?

Life is not an apology.

Evolution is a lie, accepted to avoid moral responsibility.

Those who sacrifice truth for tolerance are unable to face the truth.

Tolerance, enforced by those with an agenda and embraced by the politically correct, eventually becomes tyranny.

