

# Barbara Mertz

## Quotes

*Men, Cat, People, Writing, Heart, Thinking, Way, Looks, Book, Lying, Husband,  
Home, Mistake, Three, Past, Female, Emotion, Done, Doors, Children*

When emotion supersedes reason ... gullibility must follow.

~Barbara Mertz

No woman really wants a man to carry her off; she only wants him to want to do it.

~Barbara Mertz

Dogs can be made to feel guilty about anything, including the sins of their owners. Cats refuse to take the blame for anything - including their own sins.

~Barbara Mertz

Marriage, in my view, should be a balanced stalemate between equal adversaries.

~Barbara Mertz

there is nothing like a garden to rest the soul.

~Barbara Mertz

The only way to do it is to do it: by writing, writing, writing.

~Barbara Mertz

Cats always made up to the people who hated them the most. Depending on how you chose to look at it, it was a touching manifestation of trust, or a malicious pleasure in human discomfort.

~Barbara Mertz

A man asking for help ought to at least give directions.

~Barbara Mertz

I knew the answer, and--of course--so did Ramses. He has superb breath control and always gets in ahead of me.

~Barbara Mertz

Noble causes have a deplorable effect on the morals of the persons who espouse them.

~Barbara Mertz

It is difficult to be angry with a gentleman who pays you compliments, even impertinent compliments. Especially impertinent compliments.

~Barbara Mertz

Martyrdom is often the result of excessive gullibility.

~Barbara Mertz

Most men are reasonably useful in a crisis. The difficulty lies in convincing them that the situation has reached a critical point

~Barbara Mertz

Cats always pick the laps of the people who don't like them.

~Barbara Mertz

I do not scruple to employ mendacity and a fictitious appearance of female incompetence when the occasion demands it.

~Barbara Mertz

The approval of a cat cannot but flatter the recipient.

~Barbara Mertz

Sekhmet crawled onto Ramses's lap and began to purr. 'The creature oozes like a furry slug,' said Ramses, eyeing it without favor.

~Barbara Mertz

It may take us a little longer to reach the summit, but never fear, we will get there!

~Barbara Mertz

People who relate what they believe to be new and startling information

like to have such information received with exclamations of astonishment and admiration.

~Barbara Mertz

Conventional history completely ignores half the human race.

~Barbara Mertz

Money was the manure of politics.

~Barbara Mertz

Your trousers are on fire. I would have told you, but you so dislike advice.

~Barbara Mertz

I never meant to marry. In my opinion, a woman born in the last half of the nineteenth century of the Christian era suffered from enough disadvantages without willfully embracing another.

~Barbara Mertz

kissing someone out of pity is always a mistake.

~Barbara Mertz

It was hate at first sight, clean, pure and strong as grain alcohol.

~Barbara Mertz

A fondness for martyrdom, especially of the verbal variety, is common to the young.

~Barbara Mertz

The combination of physical strength and moral sincerity combined with tenderness of heart is exactly what is wanted in a husband.--Ameila Peabody

~Barbara Mertz

Spring is always cruel, with its false promise of resurrection.

~Barbara Mertz

I do, however, think it would be difficult to write books I don't like to read.

~Barbara Mertz

I've been reading ghost stories ever since I could read. I'm immensely curious about ghosts and UFOs and all that stuff, but I'm a very hard-headed person.

~Barbara Mertz

I can do a book in three months if I spend all day, seven days a week at it and, in fact, I work better that way.

~Barbara Mertz

Giving other people advice is one of the most irritating and useless activities known to man.

~Barbara Mertz

Nothing looks as self-satisfied as a contented cat.

~Barbara Mertz

Getting an idea for a book is not the problem, but you need 300 ideas - an idea a page.

~Barbara Mertz

Children, I feel, are as much entitled to privacy as human beings.

~Barbara Mertz

Husbands do not care to be contradicted. Indeed, I do not know anyone who does.

~Barbara Mertz

It is easier to counterfeit old age than youth.

~Barbara Mertz

Writing is like a bird-watcher watching for birds: the stories are there: you just have to train yourself to look for them.

~Barbara Mertz

I would never have supposed that inexperienced girl was capable of such cold-blooded, calculating manipulation!

~Barbara Mertz

Another dead body. Every year it is the same. Every year, another dead body.

~Barbara Mertz

I have learned that particularly clever ideas do not always stand up under close scrutiny.

~Barbara Mertz

Many persons lead lives of crushing boredom.

~Barbara Mertz

In the silence I heard Bastet, who had retreated under the bed, carrying on a mumbling, profane monologue. (If you ask how I knew it was profane, I presume you have never owned a cat.)

~Barbara Mertz

Ramses had always been fond of Helen, in his peculiar fashion, but if he had looked at me as he was looking at her, I would have sent for a constable.

~Barbara Mertz

I do hope you have some money. I'm getting tired of hitting people.

~Barbara Mertz

I sometimes wonder what it would be like to be the respected patriarch of an ordinary English family." "Very boring, Emerson.

~Barbara Mertz

Humor is an excellent method of keeping a tight rein on unproductive displays of emotion.

~Barbara Mertz

...Nefret said with a gusty sigh, 'Well, that's done it. We may as well join in, Ramses, family arguments are the favorite form of amusement here and this looks like being a loud one.

~Barbara Mertz

You are softening toward the young rascal because he is ill, and because he says he likes cats." "It is an engaging quality, Emerson." "That depends," said Emerson darkly, "on how he likes them.

~Barbara Mertz

Since I am not as stupid as my children believe I am, I had immediately realized this might be a ruse, but I was not at all averse to a confrontation. In fact, I had been hoping for some such thing.

~Barbara Mertz

The trouble with unknown enemies is that they are so difficult to identify.

~Barbara Mertz

It is much more sensible to be an optimist instead of a pessimist, for if one is doomed to disappointment, why experience it in advance?

~Barbara Mertz

Superstition has its practical uses.

~Barbara Mertz

There is nothing sadder than the cheerful letters of the dead, expressing hopes that were never fulfilled, ambitions that were never achieved, dreams cut off before they could come to fruition.

~Barbara Mertz

If all else fails, we will simply have to drug our attendants, overpower the guards, raise the oppressed peasants to arms, and take over the government.

~Barbara Mertz

But the dust! And the clutter! My housewifely and scholarly instincts were equally offended.

~Barbara Mertz

A lady cannot be blamed if a master criminal takes a fancy to her.

~Barbara Mertz

The opportunity to lecture had restored my good humor.

~Barbara Mertz

He hesitated for a moment. Then he said softly, "I love you, Mother." He took my hand and kissed it, and folded my fingers round the stem of the rose. He had stripped it of its thorns.

~Barbara Mertz

When men start talking about 'honor', there is sure to be trouble ahead.

~Barbara Mertz

I have no writing habit. I work when I feel like it, and I work when I have to - mostly the latter.

~Barbara Mertz

If someone lies down and invites you to trample upon him, you are a remarkable individual if you decline the invitation.



~Barbara Mertz

a church ought to express the joy of religion as well as its majesty.

~Barbara Mertz

His masculinity was only too apparent

~Barbara Mertz

stereotypes are awfully misleading. There are typical librarians, but not all librarians are typical.

~Barbara Mertz

Exaggeration is the cheapest form of humor.

~Barbara Mertz

love has a very dulling effect on the brain

~Barbara Mertz

The way to get on with a cat is to treat it as an equal - or even better, as the superior it knows itself to be.

~Barbara Mertz

If you take a man by surprise, and behave with sufficient arrogance, he will generally do what you ask. -Emerson

~Barbara Mertz

I had refused Emerson's well-meant offers of assistance, knowing his efforts would be confined to moving the furniture to the wrong places and demanding how much longer the process would take.

~Barbara Mertz

When one is striding bravely into the future one cannot watch one's footing.

~Barbara Mertz

There are too many people in the world as it is, but the supply of ancient manuscripts is severely limited.

~Barbara Mertz

To argue without knowledge is like trying to weave without thread.

~Barbara Mertz

..he continues to cling to the forlorn hope that I will turn into one of those swooning females...and fling myself squeeling at him whenever anything happens. Like all men, he clings to his illusions.

~Barbara Mertz

Reputations are shaped not by facts but by prejudices.

~Barbara Mertz

That's maturity-when you realize that you've finally arrived at a state of ignorance as profound as your parents.

~Barbara Mertz

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