

# Charles de Lint

## Quotes

*Writing, People, Thinking, Real, Book, Art, World, Believe, Heart, Lying, Magic, Stories, Character, Mean, Giving, Memories, Children, Important, Dark, Life*

Witchery is merely a word for what we are all capable of.

~Charles de Lint

It's all a matter of paying attention, being awake in the present moment, and not expecting a huge payoff. The magic in this world seems to work in whispers and small kindnesses.

~Charles de Lint

It's all those stories and how they braid together that tells us who and what and where we are

~Charles de Lint

You've got to find yourself first. Everything else'll follow.

~Charles de Lint

Stone walls confine a tinker; cold iron binds a witch; but a musician's music can never be fettered, for it lives first in her heart and mind.

~Charles de Lint

I'm not Chinese. I thrive in interesting times.

~Charles de Lint

Fortune-telling doesn't reveal the future; it mirrors the present. It resonates against what your subconscious already knows and hauls it up out of the darkness so you can get a good look at it.

~Charles de Lint

Don't forget - no one else sees the world the way you do, so no one else can tell the stories that you have to tell.

~Charles de Lint

There's bad apples in whatever way you want to group people - doesn't matter if it's religious, political or social. The big mistake is generalizing.

~Charles de Lint

Magic lies in between things, between the day and the night, between yellow and blue, between any two things.

~Charles de Lint

We're so quick to cut away pieces of ourselves to suit a particular relationship, a job, a circle of friends, incessantly editing who we are until we fit in.

~Charles de Lint

What I want to do is travel deep and deeper into the dreamlands, to find that place that I know is waiting for me here. My home.

~Charles de Lint

There are people who take the heart out of you, and there are people who put it back.

~Charles de Lint

When all's said and done, all roads lead to the same end. So it's not so much which road you take, as how you take it.

~Charles de Lint

Remember the quiet wonders. The world has more need of them than it has for warriors.

~Charles de Lint

Look inside yourself for the answers - you're the only one who knows what's best for you. Everybody else is only guessing.

~Charles de Lint

The real problem is, people think life is a ladder, and it's really a wheel.

~Charles de Lint

We call them faerie. We don't believe in them. Our loss.

~Charles de Lint

There's more to life than just surviving . . . but . . . sometimes just surviving is all you get

~Charles de Lint

Without mysteries, life would be very dull indeed. What would be left to strive for if everything were known?

~Charles de Lint

If you don't believe that the world has a heart, then you won't hear it beating, you won't think it's alive and you won't consider what you're doing to it.

~Charles de Lint

Life is like art. You have to work hard to keep it simple and still have meaning.

~Charles de Lint

That's the thing with magic. You've got to know it's still here, all around us, or it just stays invisible for you.

~Charles de Lint

I want to touch the heart of the world and make it smile.

~Charles de Lint

The road leading to a goal does not separate you from the destination; it is essentially a part of it.

~Charles de Lint

The magic in this world seems to work in whispers and small kindnesses.

~Charles de Lint

There's never an easy route to the things that matter.

~Charles de Lint

The fey wonders of the world only exist while there are those with the sight to see them.

~Charles de Lint

Every time you do a good deed you shine the light a little farther into the dark. And the thing is, when you're gone that light is going to keep shining on, pushing the shadows back.

~Charles de Lint

The thing with pretending you're in a good mood is that sometimes you can actually trick yourself into feeling better.

~Charles de Lint

If you're not ready to die, then how can you live?

~Charles de Lint

There are few joys to compare with the telling of a well-told tale.

~Charles de Lint

Books and music saved me as a teenager because it was through them that I realized that I wasn't alone in my obsessive love for words and music.

~Charles de Lint

The best artists know what to leave out.

~Charles de Lint

You can't stand up to the night until you understand what's hiding in its shadows.

~Charles de Lint

Magic's never what you expect it to be, but it's often what you need.

~Charles de Lint

Most times we only see things for the way we are. But we're good at lying to ourselves. Sometimes we need somebody who's not living in our skin to point out how things really are.

~Charles de Lint

The stronger a woman gets, the more insecure the men in her life feel. It doesn't work that way for a woman. We celebrate strength--in our partners as well as in ourselves.

~Charles de Lint

Tattoos...are the stories in your heart, written on your skin.

~Charles de Lint

The best artists know what to leave out. They know how much of the support should show through as the pigment is applied, what details aren't necessary.

~Charles de Lint

The puppet thinks: It's not so much what they make me do as their hands inside me.

~Charles de Lint

We're all made of stories. When they finally put us underground, the stories are what will go on.

~Charles de Lint

You know how we'd get along better? If everybody'd just remember how we're all related. White, black, Asian, skin. No difference. All the bloodlines go back to that one old mama in Africa.

~Charles de Lint

It's not the work or the personality of the founder of a religion that's important, but what its followers do with what they learn.

~Charles de Lint

Why did men worship in churches, locking themselves away in the dark, when the world lay beyond its doors in all its real glory?

~Charles de Lint

Everybody's got the potential for great good and great wrong in them, but it's the choices we make that define who we really are.

~Charles de Lint

Only fools think they're wise; the rest of us just muddle through as we can.

~Charles de Lint

"... he had understood, better than anyone ... the beauty that grew out of the simple knowledge that everything, no matter how small or large it might be, was a perfect example of what it was."

~Charles de Lint

You don't have to be Michelangelo to teach basic art, just as you don't have to be Shakespeare to be able to teach the correct use of language.

~Charles de Lint

I think you're all mad. But that's part and parcel of being an artistic genius, isn't it?

~Charles de Lint

But that's what we all are-just stories. We only exist by how people remember us, by the stories we make of our lives. Without the stories, we'd just fade away.

~Charles de Lint

I hate the thought of her being forced into a box that doesn't fit her. Of having her wings cut off, her sight blinded, her hearing muted, her voice stilled.

~Charles de Lint

You wouldn't want any creative process to lose its sense of fun and adventure, but that doesn't mean you can't take it seriously as well.

~Charles de Lint

As far as I'm concerned, the only difference between fact and what most people call fiction is about fifteen pages in the dictionary.

~Charles de Lint

When you're invisible, no one can see that you're different.

~Charles de Lint

And now the silences come in a single lifetime, in a single year... when species die, leaving a silent space in the world song that can never be filled.

~Charles de Lint

A long time ago a bunch of people reached a general consensus as to what's real and what's not and most of us have been going along with it ever since.

~Charles de Lint

It was all cheese and applause.

~Charles de Lint

The problem with children is that you have to put up with their parents.

~Charles de Lint

Wondering's healthy. Broadens the mind. Opens you up to all sorts of stray thoughts and possibilities.



~Charles de Lint

There are as many stories to be told as there are people to tell them about; only the mean-spirited would consider there to be a competition at all.

~Charles de Lint

Under the skin, intense fires burn.

~Charles de Lint

One expected growth, change; without it, the world was less, the well of inspiration dried up, the muses fled.

~Charles de Lint

The trouble with advice is that it's usually something you don't want to hear.

~Charles de Lint

The past scampers like an alley cat through the present, leaving the paw prints of memories scattered helter-skelter.

~Charles de Lint

Everything is the way it is because we've all agreed that's the way it is.

~Charles de Lint

I've always been interested in the outsider.

~Charles de Lint

Like legend and myth, magic fades when it is unused.

~Charles de Lint

The family we choose for ourselves is more important than the one we were born into; that people have to earn our respect and trust, not have it handed to them simply because of genetics.

~Charles de Lint

Not everything has to mean something. Some things just are.

~Charles de Lint

It's not all about getting your own way. Sometimes there's a bigger picture.

~Charles de Lint

Dying doesn't end anything - it just changes where you are

~Charles de Lint

Every time we fix something that broken, whether it's a car engine or a broken heart, that an act of magic. And what makes it magic is that we choose to create or help, just as we can choose to harm.

~Charles de Lint

Even, she thought, even without the gift of witchsight, there was more beauty to be found in the world than could ever be snared in language or music. And with the sight.

~Charles de Lint

One cannot seek to uphold honor in a being that has none.

~Charles de Lint

The real trouble comes from not knowing what we really want in the first place.

~Charles de Lint

All my life I've wanted to be the kid who gets to cross over into the magical kingdom.

~Charles de Lint

I've always believed the lies we use to make our fictions reveal the truth

with far more honesty than any history or herstory or life story.

~Charles de Lint

Gina always believed there was magic in the world. "But it doesn't work in the way it does in fairy tales," she told me. "It doesn't save us. We have to save ourselves.

~Charles de Lint

I've always known and been interested in people who are a little bit off the norm. I like to call attention to the idea that they are there, that they are real people, not invisible.

~Charles de Lint

It reminded me of that tongue-in-cheek quick history of art I'd overheard...Used to be people couldn't draw very well, then they could, and now they can't again.

~Charles de Lint

You walk around with a negative attitude and you're just naturally going to bring trouble and hard times down on yourself.

~Charles de Lint

The thing to remember when you're writing is, it's not whether or not what you put on paper is true. It's whether it wakes a truth in your reader.

~Charles de Lint

I don't know what's waiting for us when we die--something better, something worse. I only know I'm not ready to find out yet.

~Charles de Lint

Wisdom never comes to those who believe they have nothing left to learn.

~Charles de Lint

Ghosts were just a way that some stupid people dealt with their dull lives.

~Charles de Lint

Sculptors, poets, painters, musicians-they're the traditional purveyors of Beauty. But it can as easily be created by a gardener, a farmer, a plumber, a careworker.

~Charles de Lint

[She] had felt straight away that she wasn't meeting a new friend, but recognizing an old one.

~Charles de Lint

Let it go on record that any confusion arose simply because we lacked certain commonalities of reference.

~Charles de Lint

The moon likes secrets," Meran said. "And secret things. She lets mysteries bleed into her shadows and leaves us to ask whether they originated from otherworlds, or from our own imaginations.

~Charles de Lint

Inside us lies every possibility that is available to a sentient being. Every darkness, every light. It is the choices we make that decide who or what we will be.

~Charles de Lint

It's good to have mysteries. It reminds us that there's more to the world than just making do and having a bit of fun.

~Charles de Lint

In the dark attics of our minds, all times mingle.

~Charles de Lint

You can take the woman outta the trash, but you can't take the trash out a the woman.

~Charles de Lint

There is no plan, no future laid out for any of us beyond what we make for ourselves.

~Charles de Lint

Once upon a time there was what there was, and if nothing had happened there would be nothing to tell.

~Charles de Lint

There was too much going on here -- too much that strayed from odd all the way over into seriously weird.

~Charles de Lint

By enlarging your knowledge of things, you will find your knowledge of self is enlarged.

~Charles de Lint

What we take from the spirit world is only a reflection of what lies inside ourselves.

~Charles de Lint

Compromise is necessary so long as you never give up who you are. That isn't compromise; that's spiritual death. You have to remain true to yourself.

~Charles de Lint

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