

# China Mieville

## Quotes

*Book, Writing, Fiction, Thinking, Way, Fantasy, People, Mean, Two, Geek,  
Kraken, Names, Past, Ideas, Science Fiction, Self, Jobs, London, Together,  
Memories*

Part of the appeal of the fantastic is taking ridiculous ideas very seriously and pretending they're not absurd.

~China Mieville

I have danced with the spider. I have cut a caper with the dancing mad god.

~China Mieville

Word spread because word will spread. Stories and secrets fight, stories win, shed new secrets, which new stories fight, and on.

~China Mieville

I do, however, feel reasonably strongly the sense that the job of a piece of argumentative scholarly non-fiction is not the same as the job of a piece of fiction.

~China Mieville

Ever since I was two, I've loved octopuses, monsters, abandoned buildings.

~China Mieville

Scars are memory. Like sutures. They stitch the past to me.

~China Mieville

Fantasy and science fiction can be literal as well as allegorical and there's nothing wrong with enjoying a monster like a giant squid for what it is, as well as searching for metaphor.

~China Mieville

Any moment called NOW is always full of possibles.

~China Mieville

Scars are not injuries, Tanner Sack. A scar is a healing. After injury, a scar is what makes you whole.

~China Mieville

My job is not to try to give readers what they want but to try to make readers want what I give.

~China Mieville

I'll never be a minimalist. The fact that the prose is more tightly controlled doesn't for a minute mean that it's minimalist. I very much like arcane words and baroque sentence structure.

~China Mieville

Art is something you choose to make... it's a bringing together of... of everything around you into something that makes you more human, more khepri, whatever. More of a person.

~China Mieville

Every book I write, the first thing I have to do is get into the voice, and the voice varies from book to book - that's part of what's interesting to me.

~China Mieville

In every book I write, I try to name-check the most prominent influences, or the most prominent conscious influences.

~China Mieville

The reason that I like SF and fantasy and horror is that to me it's the pulp wing of surrealism. That's the aesthetic of undermining and creative alienation that I really go for.

~China Mieville

A scholar can never let mere wrongness get in the way of the theory.

~China Mieville

My sustenance is information. My interventions are hidden. I increase

as I learn. I compute, so I am.

~China Mieville

A sickly little smile grew and died on his mouth like a fungus.

~China Mieville

I feel fantastically geeky. [But] I'm not one of those people who's enormously proud of being a geek, but nor am I particularly ashamed of it.

~China Mieville

A trap is only a trap if you don't know about it. If you know about it, it's a challenge.

~China Mieville

I differ with myself then agree, like the rock that was broken and cemented together. I change my opinion.

~China Mieville

The dead are way more organized than the living.

~China Mieville

So long as it fated, fate didn't care what it fated.

~China Mieville

Socialism and SF are the two most fundamental influences in my life.

~China Mieville

No one ever got into science fiction for the sex or prestige. They got into it because they love it.

~China Mieville

I think the role of science fiction is not at all to prophesy. I think it is to tell interesting, vivid, strange stories that at their best are dreamlike

intense versions and visions of today.

~China Mieville

I'd never understood the injunction not to regret anything, couldn't see how that wasn't cowardice.

~China Mieville

Perhaps the window is not a sun but an asterisk, interrupting the grammar of the sky, with me sitting below it like a footnote.

~China Mieville

My Google-fu is strong.

~China Mieville

A city like London was always going to be a paradox, the best of it so very riddled with the opposite, so Swiss-cheesed with moral holes.

~China Mieville

I'll tell you, I've never particularly been a Trek person. I feel about Trek the way one feels about known, vaguely liked, but rather distant members of one's family.

~China Mieville

I like the idea of trying to write a book in every genre.

~China Mieville

I don't like allegory.

~China Mieville

I love it when people want to interpret my books.

~China Mieville

I remember vividly what it's like to read as a 10-year-old - that passionate inhabiting of a book.

~China Mieville

I think science fiction is very bad at prediction.

~China Mieville

Anything for gold and experience.

~China Mieville

A lot of geeks are pale, bespectacled, wear dark clothing and don't get out much - the stereotype exists because it is very often true. I could pass for a non-geek but it would be inaccurate.

~China Mieville

A sense of wrongness, of fraught unease, as if long nails scraped the surface of the moon, raising the hackles of the soul.

~China Mieville

I couldn't tell if I was perspicacious or paranoid.

~China Mieville

Everything has changed. I cannot be used anymore. Those days are over. I know too much. What I do now, I do for me.

~China Mieville

The problem with most genre fantasy is that it's not nearly fantastic enough. It's escapist, but it can't escape.

~China Mieville

In the field of fantastic fiction, the question of world-building is not uncontroversial. But I grew up with 'Dungeons and Dragons,' so that whole world-building thing is very close to my heart.

~China Mieville

I'd never been to a science-fiction convention until I became a

professional writer.

~China Mieville

I'm a very friendly socialist.

~China Mieville

London is an endless skirmish between angles and emptiness.

~China Mieville

Personally I don't like it when writers become excessively proscriptive about the way that people read their books.

~China Mieville

There's plenty of stuff that I don't feel dissident about: I really like tea, I don't have any problem with that. I like lots of paintings.

~China Mieville

I'm a science fiction and fantasy geek.

~China Mieville

The summer stretched out the daylight as if on a rack. Each moment was drawn out until its anatomy collapsed. Time broke down. The day progressed in an endless sequence of dead moments.

~China Mieville

We should have just killed him, that's a lesson, don't get creative with revenge

~China Mieville

Fantastic fiction covers fantasy, horror and science fiction - and it doesn't get the attention it deserves from the literati.

~China Mieville

It felt like being a child again, though it was not. Being a child is like

nothing. It's only being. Later, when we think about it, we make it into youth.

~China Mieville

The best way to write a novel is to do it behind your own back.

~China Mieville

Remember the movements that don't look like moving.

~China Mieville

Is it more childish and foolish to insist that there is a conspiracy or that there is not?

~China Mieville

You can't see the future, there's no such thing. It's all bets. You'll never get the same answer from two seers. But that doesn't mean either of them's wrong.

~China Mieville

If you're brave enough to try, you might be able to catch a train from UnLondon to Parisn't, or No York, or Helsunki, or Lost Angeles, or Sans Francisco, or Hong Gone, or Romeless.

~China Mieville

I think there's something quite interesting about the almost tragic quality of a lot of overwrought prose, because it has a much more self-conscious awareness of its own failure to touch the real.

~China Mieville

Books are always obviously having conversations with other books, and some times they're amiable and sometimes not.

~China Mieville

...where's the skill in being a hero if you were always destined to do it?



~China Mieville

But I do think it's important to remember that writers do not have a monopoly of wisdom on their books. They can be wrong about their own books, they can often learn about their own books.

~China Mieville

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