

# David Mitchell

## Quotes

*People, Thinking, World, Book, War, Atlas, Men, Writing, Past, Mean, Mind,  
Reading, Soul, Dream, Long, Humanity, Lying, Funny, Believe, Ocean*

Travel far enough, you meet yourself.

~David Mitchell

Truth is singular. Its 'versions' are mistruths.

~David Mitchell

...now I'm a spent firework; but at least I've been a firework.

~David Mitchell

If swans weren't real myths'd make up.

~David Mitchell

Books don't offer real escape, but they can stop a mind scratching itself raw.

~David Mitchell

I believe death is only a door. One closes, and another opens. If I were to imagine heaven, I would imagine a door opening. And he would be waiting for me there.

~David Mitchell

Our lives are not our own. We are bound to others, past and present, and by each crime and every kindness, we birth our future.

~David Mitchell

You say you're 'depressed' - all i see is resilience. You are allowed to feel messed up and inside out. It doesn't mean you're defective - it just means you're human.

~David Mitchell

A half-read book is a half-finished love affair.

~David Mitchell

My life amounts to no more than one drop in a limitless ocean. Yet what

is any ocean, but a multitude of drops?

~David Mitchell

I believe there is another world waiting for us. A better world. And I'll be waiting for you there.

~David Mitchell

Once any tyranny becomes accepted as ordinary, its victory is assured.

~David Mitchell

I am going to tell you a secret. Everything is about wanting. Everything. Things happen because of people wanting. Watch closely, and you'll see what I mean.

~David Mitchell

What wouldn't I give now for a never-changing map of the ever-constant ineffable? To possess, as it were, an atlas of clouds.

~David Mitchell

In an individual, selfishness uglifies the soul; for the human species, selfishness is extinction.

~David Mitchell

As for reading, I wish I had a magic door to a library where I could go in, read for days and days, and come back in the same minute I left. I'm still looking for the door.

~David Mitchell

The truth of a myth...is not in its words but its patterns.

~David Mitchell

'Y' is about the weakest letter of all. 'Y' can't make up its mind if it's a vowel or a consonant, can it?

~David Mitchell

By each crime and every kindness, we birth our future.

~David Mitchell

To fool a judge, feign fascination, but to bamboozle the whole court, feign boredom.

~David Mitchell

Time is what stops history happening at once; time is the speed at which the past disappears.

~David Mitchell

The better organized the state, the duller its humanity.

~David Mitchell

What is any ocean but a multitude of drops?

~David Mitchell

If you show someone something you've written, you give them a sharpened stake, lie down in your coffin, and say, "When you're ready".

~David Mitchell

Better a soulless clone... than a souled roach.

~David Mitchell

- This isn't an interrogation or a trial. Your version of the truth is the only thing that matters. - Truth is singular. It's 'versions' are mistruths.

~David Mitchell

A book you finish reading is not the same book it was before you read it.

~David Mitchell

If you're in your life, chance. Viewed from the outside, like a book you're reading, it's fate all the way.

~David Mitchell

Dreams are shores where the ocean of spirit meets the land of matter. Dreams are beaches where the yet-to-be, the once-were, the will-never-be may walk awhile with the still-are.

~David Mitchell

Many children are natural fantasists, I think, perhaps because their imaginations have yet to be clobbered into submission by experience.

~David Mitchell

Creation never ceased on the sixth evening, it occurs to the young man. Creation unfolds around us, despite us and through us at the speed of days and nights. And we call it love.

~David Mitchell

...it's not just the person who fills a house, it's their I'll be back later's, their toothbrushes and unused hats and coats, their belongingnesses.

~David Mitchell

Wars are never cured, they just go into remission for a few years.

~David Mitchell

over 85% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

~David Mitchell

Love's pure free joy when it works, but when it goes bad you pay for the good hours at loan-shark prices.

~David Mitchell

Maybe then you comprehend, speaking one language only is a prison!

~David Mitchell

False modesty can be worse than arrogance.

~David Mitchell

I think words operate like musical notes that the eyeball hears.

~David Mitchell

All revolutions are the sheerest fantasy until they happen; then they become historical inevitabilities.

~David Mitchell

How lazily "xperts" dismiss what they fail to understand!

~David Mitchell

We looked at each other for the last time; nothing is as eloquent as nothing.

~David Mitchell

Gosh. The subjunctive is always the first to go.

~David Mitchell

It's true that stammerers can become more adept at sentence construction.

~David Mitchell

Perpetual encagement endows any mirage of salvation with credibility.

~David Mitchell

An idler and a sluggard are as different as a gourmand and a glutton.

~David Mitchell

Birdsong foamed in the hour-before-dawn garden.

~David Mitchell

Go to hell, Willy, our souls eat poetry, but one has seven deadly sins to

feed!

~David Mitchell

Don't remember summer even saying goodbye.

~David Mitchell

I can't bear living in this huge beautiful world and not try to imitate it as best I can.

~David Mitchell

Loneliness is an integral part of travelling. I used to think it was the downside to travelling, but now I realise it is a necessary educative part of it to be embraced.

~David Mitchell

True knowledge without xperience is food without sustenance

~David Mitchell

Power, time, gravity, love. The forces that really kick ass are all invisible.

~David Mitchell

Little girls are like old cats. If they don't like you nothing on Earth will make them pretend to.

~David Mitchell

I've become a less brave traveller since I became a dad, but in the past I was more foolhardy than brave.

~David Mitchell

I recently bought a cat, but took it back a day later because our personalities clashed.

~David Mitchell

Faith, the least exclusive club on Earth, has the craftiest doorman. Every time I've stepped through its wide-open doorway, I find myself stepping out on the street again.

~David Mitchell

Autumn is leaving its mellowness behind for its spiky, rotted stage. Don't remember summer even saying goodbye.

~David Mitchell

People are obscenities. Would rather be music than be a mass of tubes squeezing semisolids around itself for a few decades before becoming so dribblesome it'll no longer function.

~David Mitchell

She has to lose her pre-Copernican view of a universe revolving around herself.

~David Mitchell

The act of memory is an act of ghostwriting.

~David Mitchell

Trees're always a relief, after people.

~David Mitchell

Mother used to say escape is never further than the nearest book.

~David Mitchell

It's a small world. It keeps recrossing itself.

~David Mitchell

I feel like something important has happened to me. Is this possible?

~David Mitchell

I'm not from a milieu where high-register language or philosophical

ideas were welcome.

~David Mitchell

Only professional diplomats, inveterate idiots and women view diplomacy as a long-term substitute for war.

~David Mitchell

Memories are their own descendents masquerading as the ancestors of the present.

~David Mitchell

I remain thankful to God for all his mercies.

~David Mitchell

Sometimes the fluffy bunny of incredulity zooms around the bend so rapidly that the greyhound of language is left, agog, in the starting cage.

~David Mitchell

If I want to act relaxed, it's going to take all my cunning, skill, and concentration.

~David Mitchell

Probably in a parallel universe not far from here, I'm working for Nintendo.

~David Mitchell

Reality is the page. Life is the word.

~David Mitchell

There's a link between bigotry and bad spelling.

~David Mitchell

Assured her I've never loved anyone except myself and have no

intention of starting now.

~David Mitchell

But you have read Madame Bovary?' (I'd never heard of her books.)

'No.

~David Mitchell

Why ask a question whose answer would demand ten more questions?

~David Mitchell

I am, emphatically. Mental illness triggered by xperimental error.

~David Mitchell

Right, my phone. When these things first appeared, they were so cool. Only when it was too late did people realize they are as cool as electronic tags on remand prisoners.

~David Mitchell

The earth's a door if you press your ear against it.

~David Mitchell

Science devises ever bloodier means of war until humanity's powers of destruction overcome our powers of creation and our civilisation drives itself to extinction.

~David Mitchell

I have always preferred maps to books. They don't answer you back.

~David Mitchell

Act', implores the Ghost of Future Regret. 'I shan't give you another chance'. [and so Jacob does] 'Damned fool,' groans the Demon of Present Regret. 'What have you done?

~David Mitchell

Times are you say a person's b'liefs ain't true, they think you're sayin' their lifes ain't true an' their truth ain't true.

~David Mitchell

Under the Enrichment Laws, consumers have to spend a fixed quota of dollars each month, depending on their strata. Hoarding is an anti-corpocratic crime.

~David Mitchell

Courage is the highest quality for a soldier, but technology is a fine substitute.

~David Mitchell

Whoever dies with the most stuff wins.

~David Mitchell

Lunatics are writers whose works write them.

~David Mitchell

As long as you can Houdini your way out of the Sisyphean constraints then originality happens.

~David Mitchell

What do I miss? Second-hand bookshops where I can find things I had no idea I wanted. AbeBooks helps, but it doesn't have that smell.

~David Mitchell

The human world is made of stories, not people. The people the stories use to tell themselves are not to be blamed

~David Mitchell

Dreams are all I have ever truly owned.

~David Mitchell

A novelist needs to know his own strong points and weak points.

~David Mitchell

Perhaps all human interaction is about wanting and getting.

~David Mitchell

I pass through many Me's in the course of my day, each one selfish with his time. The Lying-in-Bed me and the Enjoying-the-Hot-Shower Me are particularly selfish. The Late Me loathes the pair of them.

~David Mitchell

Any society's upper-crust is riddled with immorality, how else d'you think they keep their power? Reputation is king of the public sphere, not private. It is dethroned by public acts.

~David Mitchell

I lost my balance when the train pulled away, but a human crumple zone buffered my fall. We stayed like that, half fallen. Diagonal People.

~David Mitchell

I wonder if you encountered this dictum first spoken by a twentieth-century statesman: "An abyss cannot be crossed in two steps.

~David Mitchell

A mountain you're plannin' on climbin' ain't the same as the one you ain't. It ain't so pretty.

~David Mitchell

A life spent shaping a world I want Jackson to inherit, not one I fear Jackson shall inherit, this strikes me as a life worth the living.

~David Mitchell

She was widely read enough to appreciate my literary wit but not so

widely read that she knew my sources. I like that in a woman.

~David Mitchell

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