

Frances Mayes

Quotes

*Memories, People, World, Dream, Way, Country, Running, Blue, Georgia,
Giving, Summer, Years, Moving, Chance, Language, Home, Morning, Different,
House, Thinking*

Life offers you a thousand chances... all you have to do is take one.

~Frances Mayes

There is no technique, there is just the way to do it. Now, are we going to measure or are we going to cook?

~Frances Mayes

It's daunting to find the language so foreign, so distant, but also so thrilling. One is absolved of responsibility when the language is incomprehensible.

~Frances Mayes

Five tender apricots in a blue bowl, a brief and exact promise of things to come.

~Frances Mayes

A Chinese poet many centuries ago noticed that to re-create something in words is like being alive twice.

~Frances Mayes

I had the urge to examine my life in another culture and move beyond what I knew.

~Frances Mayes

If you've got a plot the size of a car or a tiny yard in Italy, you're going to be growing tomatoes and basil and celery and carrots, and everybody is still connected to the land.

~Frances Mayes

Any arbitrary turning along the way and I would be elsewhere; I would be different.

~Frances Mayes

Where is it written that houses must be beige? Any dun colored house

would look better if painted pineapple, cream, ochre, or even a smart sage.

~Frances Mayes

Sometimes the valley below is like a bowl filled up with fog. I can see hard green figs on two trees and pears on a tree just below me. A fine crop coming in. May summer last a hundred years.

~Frances Mayes

When I was twelve, I started reading Eudora Welty, Thomas Wolfe, Flannery O'Connor, James Agee, and - do we dare breathe the name - William Faulkner.

~Frances Mayes

Venice, the most touristy place in the world, is still just completely magic to me.

~Frances Mayes

Sometimes you have to travel back in time, skirting the obstacles, in order to love someone.

~Frances Mayes

The words 'forse che si,' 'forse che no', 'perhaps yes,' 'perhaps no,' repeat along all paths.

~Frances Mayes

I loved every place I lived and traveled. London, Paris, Rome, Venice. I fell hard for Central America and Mexico. In each country, I had fantasies that I could live there.

~Frances Mayes

Although I am a person who expected to be rooted in one spot forever, as it has turned out I love having the memories of living in many places.

~Frances Mayes

Whatever a guidebook says, whether or not you leave somewhere with a sense of the place is entirely a matter of smell and instinct.

~Frances Mayes

Indecision is a virus that can run through an army and destroy its will to win or even to survive.

~Frances Mayes

All afternoon in the deck chair, I try to describe to my notebook the colors of the water and sky. How to translate sunlight into words?

~Frances Mayes

I would like *The Discovery of Poetry* to be a field guide to the natural pleasures of language - a happiness we were born to have.

~Frances Mayes

The urge to travel feels magnetic. Two of my favorite words are linked: departure time. And travel whets the emotions, turns upside down the memory bank, and the golden coins scatter.

~Frances Mayes

Poems give you the lives of others and then circle in on your own inner world.

~Frances Mayes

It's kind of amazing that people will travel because of a book. I admire that.

~Frances Mayes

After owning a pool, I think the best way to enjoy the water is to have a friend who has a pool.

~Frances Mayes

As travel pushes me forward, memory keeps dragging me backward.

~Frances Mayes

Italy's siren call lures us more and more.

~Frances Mayes

Never lose your childish enthusiasm and things will come your way.

~Frances Mayes

I'll always marvel at the liveliness of southern speech-so full of metaphor and hyperbole, quirks and vividness.

~Frances Mayes

Memory is, of course, a trickster.

~Frances Mayes

Anytime the perfume of orange and lemon groves wafts in the window; the human body has to feel suffused with a languorous well-being.

~Frances Mayes

The world cracks open for those willing to take a risk.

~Frances Mayes

The longer you are in a place, the more you get under its layers.

~Frances Mayes

What has impressed me the most about the Italians whose tables we've sat at is that they are traditional cooks but also outrageously innovative. These people are wild improvisers.

~Frances Mayes

The Only Thing More Surprising Than the Chance She's Taking... Is Where It's Taking Her.

~Frances Mayes

The undulant landscape looks serene in every direction. Honey-colored farmhouses, gently placed in hollows, rise like thick loaves of bread set out to cool.

~Frances Mayes

May summer last a hundred years.

~Frances Mayes

Where you are is who you are. The further inside you the place moves, the more your identity is intertwined with it. Never casual, the choice of place is the choice of something you crave.

~Frances Mayes

The Italians have their priorities right: They're driven, they do their work, but they really enjoy the day-to-day and they don't put off the enjoyment of the everyday for some future goal.

~Frances Mayes

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