

# Francine du Plessix Gray

## Quotes

*Writing, Parent, Thinking, People, Children, Hawaii, Friendship, Love Is, Bird,  
Editors, Violent, Civilization, Seventies, Age, Giving, Events, Forgiving,  
Mysterious, Book, Cease*

We write out of revenge against reality, to dream and enter the lives of others.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

One learns much more by writing fiction, because the insights come from those deeper subconscious levels where the greater and more interesting truths lie.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

Americans and their desire to be novelists, the American novel should be listed in medical dictionaries alongside Megalomania and Obsessional Neuroses.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

Only friends will tell you the truths you need to hear to make your life bearable.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

'Why are there no great women artists?' sounds as ignorant of human geography as the query 'Why are there no Eskimo tennis teams?'

~Francine du Plessix Gray

I shall never cease to marvel at the way we beg for love and tyranny.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

All our parents have levels of deviousness. We're driven to write about this discrepancy between the bright shining selves they invented and the monsters lurking underneath.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

The choice between starving and being eaten is an exotic one.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

Like most writers I know, I love being on stage. I've sublimated the

dramatic urge by teaching and by making people laugh.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

how the French can talk. About a stew, about a fly on the parapet, about death, about anything.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

Art is both a vengeance against reality and a reconciliation with it.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

I venture that those of us who are most serene when faced with the possibility of nothingness are the ones who've reached furthest to the downward and upward of their beings.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

As to why people like Joseph Lelyveld are writing memoirs, I think they're just catching on the coattails of the trend.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

one forgives parents as naturally as one emancipates oneself from them - usually shortly afterward.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

The irreversibility of time. That's the hardest thing to accept at our age, that's the most violent aspect of death.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

Mine [parents] started out more from scratch, because I'm constantly aware of what they suffered in the war.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

I think it's one of the reasons I wrote my book later in life. My parents didn't have these extreme alternations of conduct. They were very sweet to me.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

I didn't find this memoir of these two eccentric people so different from doing my memoirs of De Sade or Simone Weil. My parents in their own way are as odd as Sade.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

I think we're much more eager to know about our parents than we were in the seventies.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

If I were ever to go mad it would be on Thanksgiving Day, that day of guilt and grace when the family hangs upon you like an ax over a sacrificial victim, like the oven's heat on that poor bird.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

Lovers, children, heroes, none of them do we fantasize as extravagantly as we fantasize our parents.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

The vast Pacific ocean would always remain the islanders' great solace, escape and nourishment, the amniotic fluid that would keep them hedonistic and aloof, guarded, gentle and mysterious.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

Oh, save me God, but not quite yet.

~Francine du Plessix Gray

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