

# Geraldine Brooks

## Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Years, Men, Believe, Mind, Book, War, Hands, Cancer, Art, Choices, Country, Fiction, World, Simple, Mother, Dad, Ambition*

To know a man's library is, in some measure, to know a man's mind.

~Geraldine Brooks

A book is more than the sum of its materials. It is an artifact of the human mind and hand.

~Geraldine Brooks

There are always a few who stand up in times of communal madness and have the courage to say that what unites us is greater than what divides us.

~Geraldine Brooks

She was like a butterfly, full of color and vibrancy when she chose to open her wings, yet hardly visible when she closed them.

~Geraldine Brooks

I'm a praying atheist. When I hear an ambulance siren, I ask for a blessing for those people in trouble, knowing that no one's listening. I think it's just a habit of mindfulness.

~Geraldine Brooks

The brave man, the real hero, quakes with terror, sweats, feels his very bowels betray him, and in spite of this moves forward to do the act he dreads.

~Geraldine Brooks

It is human nature to imagine, to put yourself in another's shoes. The past may be another country. But the only passport required is empathy.

~Geraldine Brooks

We are not the only animal that mourns; apes do, and elephants, and dogs. Yet we are the only one that tortures.

~Geraldine Brooks

Jewish prayers are mostly about daily things - the sliver of a new moon, dew on the grass, the bread and the wine.

~Geraldine Brooks

Book burnings. Always the forerunners. Heralds of the stake, the ovens, the mass graves.

~Geraldine Brooks

You go on. You set one foot in front of the other, and if a thin voice cries out, somewhere behind you, you pretend not to hear, and keep going.

~Geraldine Brooks

Despair is a cavern beneath our feet and we teeter on its very brink.

~Geraldine Brooks

Who is the brave man--he who feels no fear? If so, then bravery is but a polite term for a mind devoid of rationality and imagination.

~Geraldine Brooks

Sometimes I want to have a mental book burning that would scour my mind clean of all the filthy visions literature has conjured there. But how to do without 'The Illiad?' How to do without 'Macbeth?'

~Geraldine Brooks

And so, as generally happens, those who have most give least, and those with less somehow make shrift to share.

~Geraldine Brooks

Here we are, alive, and you and I will have to make it what we can.

~Geraldine Brooks

I think that you can honour the sacrifices of a common soldier without glorifying war.

~Geraldine Brooks

Both my parents loved words. That was the big deal in our house.

~Geraldine Brooks

I can always write. Sometimes, to be sure, what I write is crap, but it's words on the page and therefore it is something to work with.

~Geraldine Brooks

The great thing about being always among people of noble manners was the inevitable elevation of one's own.

~Geraldine Brooks

They say the Lord's Day is a day of rest, but those who preach this generally are not women.

~Geraldine Brooks

I was not 15 anymore, and choices no longer had that same clear, bright edge to them.

~Geraldine Brooks

My sentences tend to be very short and rather spare. I'm more your paragraph kind of gal.

~Geraldine Brooks

The Sarajevans have a very particular world view - a mordant wit coupled with this unbearable sadness and... truckloads of guts, you know.

~Geraldine Brooks

I borrowed his brightness and used it to see my way, and then gradually, from the habit of looking at the world as he illuminated it, the light in my own mind rekindled.

~Geraldine Brooks

God warns us not to love any earthly thing above Himself, and yet He sets in a mother's heart such a fierce passion for her babes that I do not comprehend how He can test us so.

~Geraldine Brooks

I knew I was going to be a journalist when I was eight years old and I saw the printing presses rolling at the Sydney newspaper where my dad worked as a proofreader.

~Geraldine Brooks

If there is one class of person I have never quite trusted, it is a man who knows no doubt.

~Geraldine Brooks

Moral certainty can deafen people to any truth other than their own.

~Geraldine Brooks

If a man is to lose his fortune, it is a good thing if he were poor before he acquired it, for poverty requires aptitude.

~Geraldine Brooks

Instead of idleness, vanity, or an intellect formed by the spoon-feeding of others, my girls have acquired energy, industry, and independence.

~Geraldine Brooks

We were too intelligent, too cynical for war. Of course, you don't have to be stupid and primitive to die a stupid, primitive death.

~Geraldine Brooks

September 11, 2001, revealed heroism in ordinary people who might have gone through their lives never called upon to demonstrate the extent of their courage.

~Geraldine Brooks

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