

# Gregory Maguire

## Quotes

*World, Wicked, Evil, People, Children, Thinking, Way, Soul, Eye, Heart, Mind,  
Long, Home, Book, Might, Men, Writing, Struggle, Hands, Art*

The eye is always caught by light, but shadows have more to say.

~Gregory Maguire

As long as people are going to call you lunatic anyway, why not get the benefit of it? It liberates you from convention.

~Gregory Maguire

Remember to breathe. It is after all, the secret of life.

~Gregory Maguire

From torched skyscrapers, men grew wings.

~Gregory Maguire

Where I'm from, we believe in all sorts of things that aren't true... we call it history.

~Gregory Maguire

Books fall open, you fall in. When you climb out again, you're a bit larger than you used to be.

~Gregory Maguire

If magic was present, it moved under the skin of the world, beneath the ability of human eyes to catch sight of it.

~Gregory Maguire

I know you don't want to hear this but someone has to say it! You are out of control! I mean they're just shoes... let it go!

~Gregory Maguire

Growth and change were viewed as reactions to conditions met

~Gregory Maguire

Waking up was a daily cruelty, an affront, and she avoided it by not sleeping.

~Gregory Maguire

quoting reminds me there are other people in the world besides only me. And other thoughts besides mine, and other ways of thinking.

~Gregory Maguire

Always the bridesmaid , never the bride." Always the godfather, never the god".

~Gregory Maguire

The body apologizes to the soul for its errors, and the soul asks forgiveness for squatting in the body without invitation.

~Gregory Maguire

Before you save anyone else, you have to save yourself. otherwise, you're just a bundle of tics, a stringed puppet manipulated by the chance and the insensible wind.

~Gregory Maguire

People who claim that they're evil are usually no worse than the rest of us... It's people who claim that they're good, or any way better than the rest of us, that you have to be wary of.

~Gregory Maguire

Just my luck, if I believed in luck. I only believe in the opposite of luck, whatever that is.

~Gregory Maguire

Indeed, she often wondered if she were dead, or dying from the inside out, and that was the root of her calm, the reason she could surrender her character.

~Gregory Maguire

Okay let's get this over with, no I'm not seasick, yes I've always been

green, No I didn't eat grass as a child.

~Gregory Maguire

In summer moonlight, she was dangerously, inebriatingly magnified.

~Gregory Maguire

Remember this: Nothing is written in the stars. Not these stars, nor any others. No one controls your destiny.

~Gregory Maguire

Of course. You get everything from books.

~Gregory Maguire

It's unbecoming," she agreed. "A perfect word for my new life. Unbecoming. I who have always been unbecoming am becoming un.

~Gregory Maguire

It isn't hard to find evil in this world. Evil is always more easily imagined than good, somehow.

~Gregory Maguire

I had written childrens books for 14 years before I published Wicked. And none of them were poorly reviewed, and none of them sold enough for me to be able to buy a bed.

~Gregory Maguire

The wickedness of men is that their power breeds stupidity and blindness.

~Gregory Maguire

One never learns how the witch became wicked, or whether that was the right choice for her~is it ever the right choice? Does the devil ever struggle to be good again, or if so is he not a devil?

~Gregory Maguire

The world unwraps itself to you, again and again as soon as you are ready to see it anew.

~Gregory Maguire

Because no retreat from the world can mask what is in your face.

~Gregory Maguire

Behold the male beast roaring in the jungle for his mate," said Elphaba. "See how the female beast giggles behind a shrub while she organizes her face to say, Pardon dear, did you say something?"

~Gregory Maguire

Just follow that one road the whole time!... I hope they don't get lost, I'm so bad at giving directions.

~Gregory Maguire

Animals are born who they are, accept it, and that is that. They live with greater peace than people do.

~Gregory Maguire

It appears history is going to keep happening, despite our hopes for retirement.

~Gregory Maguire

There was much to hate in this world and too much to love.

~Gregory Maguire

The nature of the world is to be calm, and enhance and support life, and evil is an absence of the inclination of matter to be at peace.

~Gregory Maguire

Yes, I'm nervous. You'll find in time most people are. They simply learn better how to disguise it, and sometimes, if they're wise, how to use their anxiety to serve the public good.

~Gregory Maguire

One plus one equals both.

~Gregory Maguire

I hate to be obvious," added the Scarecrow, "but you'd have saved yourself a heap of trouble if you weren't too cheap to invest in a leash, Dorothy.

~Gregory Maguire

No, she wasn't losing language. She was choking on it.

~Gregory Maguire

Elphaba looked like something between an animal and an Animal, like something more than life but not quite Life.

~Gregory Maguire

They moved together, blue diamonds on a green field.

~Gregory Maguire

I shall pray for your soul,' promised Nessarose. I shall wait for your shoes,' Elphie answered.

~Gregory Maguire

Immortality is a chancy thing; it cannot be promised or earned. Perhaps it cannot even be identified for what it is.

~Gregory Maguire

Approval is overrated...Approval and disapproval alike satisfy those who deliver it more than those who receive it. I don't care for approval, and I don't mind doing without.

~Gregory Maguire

Does the devil ever struggle to be good again, or if so is he not a devil?

~Gregory Maguire

It's the place of the story, beginning here, in the meadow of late summer flowers, thriving before the Atlantic storms drive wet and winter upon them all.

~Gregory Maguire

I wouldn't mind leaving myself behind if I could, but I don't know the way out.

~Gregory Maguire

That's the real power of art, I think. Not to chide but to provoke challenge. Otherwise why bother?

~Gregory Maguire

...but the tale itself is a trickster and doesn't hesitate to lie. It is anachronistic with a vengeance. It emerges always and everywhere, overt or disguised, pureblood or hybrid, and healthy as sin.

~Gregory Maguire

I never use the words HUMANIST or HUMANITARIAN, as it seems to me that to be human is to be capable of the most heinous crimes in nature.

~Gregory Maguire

If you're ever in doubt, throw a pepper in the air. If it fails to come down, you have gone mad, so don't trust in anything.

~Gregory Maguire

I am a forgettable leaf on a tree.

~Gregory Maguire

Wisdom is not the understanding of mystery. Wisdom is accepting that mystery is beyond understanding. That's what makes it mystery.

~Gregory Maguire

at least i'm talkng to myself. instead of giving myself the cold shoulder

~Gregory Maguire

I actually prefer female voices to listen to, mostly, but among the male singers whose voices I like are Jeff Buckley, Art Garfunkel, that sort of voice. Contemporary crooners rather than rockers.

~Gregory Maguire

My job is to protect you, Lady Glinda even if you are loosing your mind.

~Gregory Maguire

Little critters fried like fritters come out crunchy and divine.

~Gregory Maguire

Begging your pardon, sir....One population can't make peace with another by force.

~Gregory Maguire

And a puzzle is for the piecing together, especially for the young, who still believe it can be done.

~Gregory Maguire

Was it an accident that I saw Fiyero, I wondered, looking at the manager with new eyes, or is it just that world unwraps itself to you again and again as soon as you are ready to see it anew?

~Gregory Maguire

There were more ways to live than the ones given by one's superiors

~Gregory Maguire

Not an ugly color, Nanny thought. Just not a human color.

~Gregory Maguire



Happy endings are still endings.

~Gregory Maguire

It's the only condition I know. Bitter Love, Loneliness, contempt for corruption, blind hope. It's where I live. A permanent state of bereavement. This is nothing new.

~Gregory Maguire

In the lives of children, pumpkins turn into coaches, mice and rats turn into men. When we grow up, we realize it is far more common for men to turn into rats.

~Gregory Maguire

It's the endlessly thinking about yourself that causes such heart shame.

~Gregory Maguire

She is no longer I, she is too long ago, she is only she.

~Gregory Maguire

Don't wish,"said Rain, "don't start. Wishing only...

~Gregory Maguire

The sweet accident of coincidence is the best foundation on which to build.

~Gregory Maguire

There were people everywhere but no one was mine, and I was no one's.

~Gregory Maguire

To read, even in the half-dark, is also to call the lost forward.

~Gregory Maguire

Light will blind us in time, but what we learn in the dark can see us through.

~Gregory Maguire

I may not be sure if monsters exist, but I'd rather live my life in doubt than be persuaded by a real experience of one.

~Gregory Maguire

I take responsibility only for the future, not the past. The past can't hurt you the way the future can.

~Gregory Maguire

The more civilized we become, the more horrendous our entertainments.

~Gregory Maguire

The thing about a mirror is this: The one who stares into it is condemned to consider the world from her own perspective.

~Gregory Maguire

...perhaps charity is the kind of beauty that we comprehend the best because we miss it the most.

~Gregory Maguire

'Are you an aberration to your species?' she cried. 'Cats don't look for approval!'

~Gregory Maguire

Perhaps family itself, like beauty, is temporary, and no discredit need attach to impermanence.

~Gregory Maguire

Sorrow has a name, and its name is loneliness. Sorrow has a shape, and its shape is absence. Sorrow is a sickness like any other.

~Gregory Maguire

The devil is a very big angel, but a very little man.

~Gregory Maguire

We only have babies when we're young enough not to know how grim life turns out.

~Gregory Maguire

The world was floods above and fire below

~Gregory Maguire

Yet who can say how our souls have been stamped by witnessing such a cruel drama? All souls are hostages to their human envelopes, but souls must decay and suffer at such indignity, don't you agree?

~Gregory Maguire

Even God used silence as a strategy.

~Gregory Maguire

A man is called a traitor, or liberator. A rich man is a thief or philanthropist. Is one a crusader or ruthless invader? It's all in which label is able to persist.

~Gregory Maguire

That was such a wonderful time, even in its strangeness and sadness-and life isn't the same now. It's wonderful, but it isn't the same.

~Gregory Maguire

...I dabble in causes and effects.

~Gregory Maguire

If one could drown in the grass, thought Elphie, that might be the best

way to die.

~Gregory Maguire

How deeply bound by cords of family anger we all are[...]None of us breaks free.

~Gregory Maguire

The overdressed traveler betrays more interest in being seen than in seeing, while the true traveler knows that the novel world about her serves as the most appropriate accessory.

~Gregory Maguire

How poetic you are," she said. "I've a notion that poetry is the highest form of self-deception.

~Gregory Maguire

That's all I want- to do no harm.

~Gregory Maguire

...the reasons just reassemble themselves in different patterns every time I think about it.

~Gregory Maguire

When the times are a crucible, when the air is full of crisis, those who are the most themselves are the victims.

~Gregory Maguire

The truth isn't a thing of fact or reason. It is simply what everyone agrees on.

~Gregory Maguire

I may not know how to fly but I know how to read, and that's almost the same thing.

~Gregory Maguire

I hate New Year's Eve. One more chance to remember that you haven't yet done what you wanted. And to pretend it doesn't matter.

~Gregory Maguire

No one controls your destiny. Even at the very worst - there is always choice.

~Gregory Maguire

[Puggles] "What population signs on willingly for slavery?" "You mean other than wives?" [Glinda]

~Gregory Maguire

You confuse not speaking with not listening.

~Gregory Maguire

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