

# J. Michael Straczynski

## Quotes

*Writing, People, Thinking, Character, Book, Dream, Stories, Fiction, Way, Men,  
Mind, World, Want, Kids, Jobs, Fighting, Believe, War, Television, Firsts*

I think that we are already making steps toward mapping out the brain so we can identify the chemical patterns that create and store memory.

~J. Michael Straczynski

It was the dawn of the third age of mankind.

~J. Michael Straczynski

No dictator, no invader, can hold an imprisoned population by force of arms forever.

~J. Michael Straczynski

If sacred places are spared the ravages of war... then make all places sacred. And if the holy people are to be kept harmless from war... then make all people holy.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Avoid the tyranny of the reasonable voice...it will guarantee a complacency of never trying anything adventurous.

~J. Michael Straczynski

All love is unrequited. All of it.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I am a control freak. I will admit that freely.

~J. Michael Straczynski

When in doubt, blow something up.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Never follow somebody else's path; it doesn't work the same way twice for anyone... the path follows you and rolls up behind you as you walk, forcing the next person to find their own way.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Take care, don't fight, and remember: if you do not choose to lead, you will forever be led by others. Find what scares you, and do it. And you can make a difference, if you choose to do so.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Wouldn't it be much worse if life really were fair and all the terrible things that happen to us happen because we really deserve them?

~J. Michael Straczynski

If a person with a bullet in Dallas can change the world, imagine a person with an idea could do.

~J. Michael Straczynski

The quality of our thoughts is bordered on all sides by our facility with language.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Understanding is a three-edged sword. Your side, my side, and the truth.

~J. Michael Straczynski

It's been amazing to watch, because for Thor, which was always a mid-selling book, to be in the top ten for every single issue since the reboot is just a great compliment.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I grew up on comics and cartoons. So, as an adult, I like comics and cartoons.

~J. Michael Straczynski

On the Internet, inside information is currency, and there will always be counterfeiters among us.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I've written for every medium except poetry, at which I suck.

~J. Michael Straczynski

In every other science fiction series, humans are at the top of the food chain. In the 'Babylon 5' universe, they're in the bottom third.

~J. Michael Straczynski

We walk in dark places no others will enter. We stand on the bridge and no one may pass. We live for the One. We die for the One. -- the Ranger oath

~J. Michael Straczynski

Half-way through any big project, everyone forgets what they're doing.

~J. Michael Straczynski

When the mob and the press and the whole world tell you to move, your job is to plant yourself like a tree by the river of truth, and tell the whole world - No, you move.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I don't start writing a script until I can see it all in my head, then it's a matter of getting it down in white heat.

~J. Michael Straczynski

The more important the emotion is, the fewer words required to express it: Will you go out with me? I think I like you. I care for you. I love you. Marry me. Goodbye.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Faith and reason are the shoes on your feet. You can travel further with both than you can with just one.

~J. Michael Straczynski

**NEVER SURRENDER DREAMS** If we are to be who we are; if we are

to accomplish great things; then we must learn the heart's most essential rule: NEVER SURRENDER DREAMS

~J. Michael Straczynski

Greatness is never appreciated in youth, called pride in midlife, dismissed in old age, and reconsidered in death. Because we cannot tolerate greatness in our midst, we do all we can do destroy it.

~J. Michael Straczynski

As an atheist, I believe that all life is unspeakably precious, because it's only here for a brief moment, a flare against the dark, and then it's gone forever.

~J. Michael Straczynski

There are people in life, who show you how to live. There are people in life, who show you how to die.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I was very clear that I wanted to keep 'Thor' out of the rest of the Marvel universe for no less than the first six issues. And the success of the book, I think, speaks well to that decision.

~J. Michael Straczynski

There's a lot of comics writers out there whose work I appreciate and who are nice guys. I really want to work with guys I really respect and enjoy.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Growing up as a kid, we moved all over the country on a fairly frequent basis, from New Jersey to Texas, California, Illinois... we moved 21 times in my first 17 years.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Stage-persona notwithstanding, I'm extremely shy and quiet. Almost

painfully shy. People misinterpret that as being above it all or not interested.

~J. Michael Straczynski

The problem with writing a monthly book is that you're going through your work like a man running for a bus, red-faced and out of breath. There isn't time for reflection or critical self-examination.

~J. Michael Straczynski

My house looks like it was decorated by a 14-year old with a platinum American Express card.

~J. Michael Straczynski

When you're writing a story in bits and pieces, month in and month out, there really isn't time or space for reflection, no room to learn what those scripts had to teach you.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Superhero stories are kind of in my DNA from childhood on, so I think I'm genetically drawn to playing in the genre when the opportunity presents itself.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I am a huge zombie fan. I have probably seen the George Romero movies 100 times each, without exaggeration.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Everyone in the entertainment business gets crappy contracts when we start out, and into the middle of our careers. It's the nature of the business.

~J. Michael Straczynski

The whole point of having great characters is the opportunity to explore them more deeply with time, re-interpreting them for each new age.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Coming from TV and film, rule number one is that you always service the main character first and foremost. If that's not working, you've got nothing.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Find what scares you and do it.

~J. Michael Straczynski

To understand this whole area, you have to stop thinking like a viewer and start thinking like a network programming exec.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I wake up every morning knowing how ridiculously lucky I am to be able to do what I love for a living, and that sense of wonder never, ever wears off.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I like writing. It's partly control freak, and partly I really like what I do for a living. I have the luckiest job in the world. I can get up every day and do what I love for a living.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Did Alan Moore get screwed on his contract? Of course. Lots of people get screwed, but we still have Spider-Man and lots of other heroes.

~J. Michael Straczynski

If your going to have delusions, you might as well go for the really satisfying ones.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I'm all for teaching creation and allowing prayers in schools, as soon as scholars begin teaching Darwinism and geometry in church.

~J. Michael Straczynski

There can always be new beginnings... even for people like us.

~J. Michael Straczynski

The universe considers me its personal cat toy.

~J. Michael Straczynski

What are the purposes and priorities of teaching? . . . First, to inspire. Second, to challenge. Third, and only third, to impart information.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Stun settings are for people who can't commit.

~J. Michael Straczynski

It's really important to me to keep growing as a writer, to look for new challenges and be harshly critical of my own work in order to learn and tell better stories.

~J. Michael Straczynski

It is not for the gods to decide whether or not Man exists - it is for Man to decide whether or not the gods exist.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I'm a big believer in the idea that while we are the sum of our tears, we are also the product of our choices in how we deal with those tears.

~J. Michael Straczynski

For me, there's nothing sexier than a woman who can argue me into the ground and outsmart me...a woman who knows her own mind and isn't afraid to speak it.

~J. Michael Straczynski

When a book of mine comes out, I instantly go hunting the net, not for



praise, but for criticism, because that's how you learn, from people who don't have to be polite to you.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Never follow somebody else's path; it doesn't work the same way twice for anyone.

~J. Michael Straczynski

A good story should provoke discussion, debate, argument...and the occasional bar fight.

~J. Michael Straczynski

The sky was full of stars, and every star an exploding ship.

~J. Michael Straczynski

There's a rule of writing: if everything is funny, nothing is funny; if everything is sad, nothing is sad. You want that contrast.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Science fiction shows are traditionally about the gimmick or the gadget and tend to be emotionally cool to the touch.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I want to have time. When you're doing a monthly book, you're like a man racing after a bus. You're breathless and red-faced. I want to build in quality control.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Budget grows out of the story. If you're writing a story with people caught in an elevator for most of the film, you're pretty sure it won't be a \$200 million movie.

~J. Michael Straczynski

You can only have one voice on set, and that has to be the director.

~J. Michael Straczynski

On most TV shows, you work on a set and do some location.

~J. Michael Straczynski

You can't always relate to the big action things, but you can relate to small moments.

~J. Michael Straczynski

People in a cluster are bound to each other automatically, and can see each other automatically.

~J. Michael Straczynski

A lot of television tends to assume that audiences don't have the attention span or the IQ to follow a lot of stuff.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I've worked on high visibility shows that weren't always the best, and low visibility shows that I love but that didn't have the PR behind them.

~J. Michael Straczynski

When you walk into a movie theater, you don't walk out half-way through, and then come back the next day to watch the rest of it.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I'm all for crossovers if they benefit the individual books.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I think for any writer, creating and controlling your own property is the ultimate dream.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I've always been a science fiction fan since I had understood the conception of what a story was.

~J. Michael Straczynski

When I saw Wonder Woman being constantly put in positions where she'd get tied up with her own rope, or held hostage, even as a kid, my reaction was 'C'mon, she's too smart for that.'

~J. Michael Straczynski

Writing is the process of asking the next logical question.

~J. Michael Straczynski

To me, science fiction is about the sense of mystery, the sense of awe. Not 'shock and awe', just 'awe.'

~J. Michael Straczynski

I sometimes find reality far more fantastical and unlikely than what I could just make up.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I always knew that I was going to be a writer. There was no question in my mind about that.

~J. Michael Straczynski

All you can do is focus on telling the best story you can with compelling characters. If you do it right, it will endure. If you do it wrong, it won't.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Whenever you write for someone else, you're always aware - sometimes overtly, other times at an almost cellular, subliminal level - of the rules about what you can and can't do.

~J. Michael Straczynski

Whenever you can bring your chops in as a reporter to unearth a cool story, that's always a good thing.

~J. Michael Straczynski

The American Way is an amalgam of our compassion, our strengths, our failings and our attempts to build a better world, a more perfect union.

~J. Michael Straczynski

A lot of the futuristic space stuff seemed to me to be a very cool form of science-fiction, so that was my first real baptism in the genre.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I've changed my mind. I've decided that at the end I want to be cremated and my ashes scattered over someone I don't like.

~J. Michael Straczynski

My philosophy: find what it is you want to say, walk in the room, say it, and get the hell out.

~J. Michael Straczynski

A movie is a movie and a book is a book, and they have different rules.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I've made a decision and now I must face the consequences.

~J. Michael Straczynski

I like to consider my mind an open door. It's just not a revolving door.

~J. Michael Straczynski

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