

# John Buchan Quotes

*Men, Believe, Kind, Funny, Happiness, Heart, War, Thinking, Self, Past,  
Inspirational, Firsts, Running, Brain, Flesh, Romance, Trying, Life, Work, World*

The task of leadership is not to put greatness into people, but to elicit it, for the greatness is there already.

~John Buchan

I believe that all wisdom consists in caring immensely for a few right things, and not caring a straw about the rest.

~John Buchan

The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope.

~John Buchan

An atheist is a man who has no invisible means of support.

~John Buchan

That is the supreme value of history. The study of it is the best guarantee against repeating it.

~John Buchan

There may be peace without joy, and joy without peace, but the two combined make happiness.

~John Buchan

The true definition of a snob is one who craves for what separates men rather than for what unites them.

~John Buchan

It's a great life, if you don't weaken.

~John Buchan

Every man at the bottom of his heart believes that he is a born detective.

~John Buchan

The robe of flesh wears thin, and with the years God shines through all things.

~John Buchan

Without humility there can be no humanity.

~John Buchan

I believe that every man has in his soul a passion for treasure-hunting, which will often drive a coward into prodigies of valour.

~John Buchan

I would have been content with any job however thankless, in any quarter however remote, if I had a chance of making a corner of the desert blossom and the solitary place glad.

~John Buchan

Peace is that state in which fear of any kind is unknown.

~John Buchan

Leadership is only courage and wisdom, and a great carefulness of self.

~John Buchan

We can pay our debts to the past by putting the future in debt to ourselves.

~John Buchan

Wise men never grow up; indeed, they grow younger, for they lose the appalling worldly wisdom of youth.

~John Buchan

He who would valiant be against all disaster; let him in constancy follow the Master. There's no discouragement shall make him once relent; his first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

~John Buchan

To live for a time close to great minds is the best kind of education.

~John Buchan

It struck me that Albania was the sort of place that might keep a man from yawning.

~John Buchan

Civilization is a conspiracy. Modern life is the silent compact of comfortable folk to keep up pretences.

~John Buchan

I believe everything out of the common. The only thing to distrust is the normal.

~John Buchan

He disliked emotion, not because he felt lightly, but because he felt deeply.

~John Buchan

[W]ithout humour you cannot run a sweetie-shop, let alone a nation.

~John Buchan

The book trade is a spiritual barometer of a nations well-being.

~John Buchan

You see only the productions of second-rate folk who are in a hurry to get wealth and fame. The true knowledge, the deadly knowledge, is still kept secret. But, believe me, my friend, it is there.

~John Buchan

"What would you call the highest happiness, Lewie?" he asked. "The sense of competence," was the answer, given without hesitation.

~John Buchan

I am an ordinary sort of fellow, not braver than other people, but I hate to see a good man downed, and that long knife would not be the end of Scudder if I could play the game in his place.

~John Buchan

The vows we take in the holy place bind us till we are purged of them at Inanda's Kraal. Till then no blood must be shed and no flesh eaten. It was the fashion of our forefathers.

~John Buchan

But some love not the method of your first; Romance they count it, throw't away as dust; If I should meet with such, what should I say; Must I slight them as they slight me, or nay

~John Buchan

Any large-scale organization must lose some of the merits of its rudimentary beginnings. Quantity will have a coarsening effect on quality.

~John Buchan

To see what is right and not to do it is cowardice. It is never a question of who is right but what is right.

~John Buchan

History gives us a kind of chart, and we dare not surrender even a small rushlight in the darkness. The hasty reformer who does not remember the past will find himself condemned to repeat it.

~John Buchan

The Church of Christ is an anvil which has worn out many hammers. Our opponents may boast of their strength, but they do not realize what they have challenged.

~John Buchan

Civilisation is a conspiracy.

~John Buchan

Pessimism is the one ism which kills the soul.

~John Buchan

Our sufferings have taught us that no nation is sufficient unto itself, and that our prosperity depends in the long run, not upon the failures of our neighbors but their successes.

~John Buchan

In our modern world we have seen inaugurated the reign of a dull bourgeois rationalism, which finds some inadequate reason for all things in heaven and earth and makes a god of its own infallibility.

~John Buchan

I was a peaceful sedentary man, a lover of a quiet life, with no appetite for perils and commotions. But I was beginning to realise that I was very obstinate.

~John Buchan

If those extra-social brains are so potent, why after all do they effect so little? A dull police-officer, with the machine behind him, can afford to laugh at most experiments in anarchy.

~John Buchan

Fortunately for mankind the brain in a life of action turns more to the matter in hand than to conjuring up the chances of the future.

~John Buchan

A fool tries to look different: a clever man looks the same and is different.

~John Buchan

Civilisation needs more than the law to hold it together. You see, all mankind are not equally willing to accept as divine justice what is called human law.

~John Buchan

Most true points are fine points. There never was a dispute between mortals where both sides hadn't a bit of right.

~John Buchan

London is like the tropical bush -- if you don't exercise constant care the jungle, in the shape of the slums, will break in.

~John Buchan

Young girls passed me with romance still in their eyes, and others, a little older, with the romance dead.

~John Buchan

I always try to suit my clothes to my company. It is the only way to be inconspicuous.

~John Buchan

Bethink you of the blessedness. Every wife is like the Mother of God and has the hope of bearing a saviour of mankind.

~John Buchan

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