

John Mortimer

Quotes

*Children, People, Thinking, Father, Book, Law, Writing, World, Lunch, Belief,
Luck, Hands, Lonely, Class, Years, Believe, Hate, Running, Panic, Scum*

There is always time for failure

~John Mortimer

To escape jury duty in England, wear a bowler hat and carry a copy of the Daily telegraph.

~John Mortimer

The shelf life of the modern hardback writer is somewhere between the milk and the yoghurt.

~John Mortimer

All the flower children were as alike as a congress of accountants and about as interesting.

~John Mortimer

No brilliance is needed in the law. Nothing but common sense, and relatively clean finger nails.

~John Mortimer

Never believe a rumour until you hear it officially denied.

~John Mortimer

We don't know much about the human conscience, except that it is soluble in alcohol.

~John Mortimer

The secret of good health and happiness is to have rather small illnesses throughout your life which you can rely on to stop you doing anything you don't want to do.

~John Mortimer

Hell must be a place where you are only allowed to read what you agree with.

~John Mortimer

I suppose that writers should, in a way, feel flattered by the censorship laws. They show a primitive fear and dread at the fearful magic of print.

~John Mortimer

The only rule I have found to have any validity in writing is not to bore yourself.

~John Mortimer

I refuse to spend my life worrying about what I eat. There is no pleasure worth foregoing just for an extra three years in the geriatric ward.

~John Mortimer

A war against terrorism is an impracticable conception if it means fighting terrorism with terrorism.

~John Mortimer

The worst fault of the working classes is telling their children they're not going to succeed, saying: There is life, but it's not for you.

~John Mortimer

The freedom to make a fortune on the stock exchange has been made to sound more alluring than freedom of speech.

~John Mortimer

Farce is tragedy played at a thousand revolutions per minute.

~John Mortimer

Check-ups are, in my experience, a grave mistake; all they do is allow the quack of your choice to tell you that you have some sort of complaint that you were far happier not knowing about.

~John Mortimer

What obsesses a writer starting out on a lifetime's work is the panic-stricken search for a voice of his own.

~John Mortimer

The law seems like a sort of maze through which a client must be led to safety, a collection of reefs, rocks, and underwater hazards through which he or she must be piloted.

~John Mortimer

Rumpole, you must move with the times." "If I don't like the way the times are moving, I shall refuse to accompany them.

~John Mortimer

Loyalty to the school to which your parents pay to send you seemed to me like feeling loyalty to Selfridges.

~John Mortimer

Marriage is like pleading guilty to an indefinite sentence. Without parole.

~John Mortimer

Murderers have usually killed the one person in the world that was bugging them and they're usually quite peaceful and agreeable.

~John Mortimer

I knew nothing about farce until I read Puce a l'Oreille, and had no idea what a deadly serious business it is.

~John Mortimer

I suppose true sexual equality will come when a general called Anthea is found having an unwise lunch with a young, unreliable model from Spain.

~John Mortimer

I don't believe in children's books. I think after you've read Kidnapped, Treasure Island, and Huckleberry Finn, you're ready for anything.

~John Mortimer

The greatest horrors of our world are committed by people who are totally sincere.

~John Mortimer

No power on earth, however, can abolish the merciless class distinction between those who are physically desirable and the lonely, pallid, spotted, silent, unfancied majority.

~John Mortimer

I don't think you ever feel a success really because everything could always be done better than you've done it.

~John Mortimer

It is desperately important to remember when enough is enough, when you've finished the scene.

~John Mortimer

We may not be the creme de la creme, but we are the creme de la scum.

~John Mortimer

Success is good for the character.

~John Mortimer

The old middle-class prerogative of being permanently in a most filthy temper.

~John Mortimer

The officers of the branch of the Force (the Obscene Publications Squad) have a discouraging club tie, on which a book is depicted being cut in half by a larger pair of scissors.

~John Mortimer

Irritable Judges suffer from a bad case of premature adjudication.

~John Mortimer

Never shake hands with colleagues in court; the customers think you're making deals.

~John Mortimer

People will go to endless trouble to divorce one person and then marry someone who is exactly the same, except probably a bit poorer and a bit nastier. I don't think anybody learns anything.

~John Mortimer

I had inherited what my father called the art of the advocate, or the irritating habit of looking for the flaw in any argument.

~John Mortimer

My father, to whom I owe so much, never told me the difference between right and wrong; now I think that's why I remain so greatly in his debt.

~John Mortimer

The point at which beliefs meet may be more significant, more useful to contemplate, than their sources.

~John Mortimer

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