

# Kate Morton Quotes

*Book, People, Children, Way, Writing, Memories, Thinking, Might, Heart,  
Stories, Girl, Garden, Air, Doors, Enough, Real, House, Past, Eye, Years*

You make a life out of what you have, not what you're missing.

~Kate Morton

A girl expecting rescue never learns to save herself. Even with the means, she will find her courage wanting.

~Kate Morton

Memory is a cruel mistress with whom we all must learn to dance.

~Kate Morton

It's a terrible thing, isn't it, the way we throw people away?

~Kate Morton

Reluctance to begin is quick to befriend procrastination. . . .

~Kate Morton

In each man's heart there lies a hole. A dark abyss of need, the filling of which takes precedence over all else.

~Kate Morton

His words had tossed the book that was her life into the air and the pages had been blown into disarray, could never be put back together to tell the same story.

~Kate Morton

It was such a pleasure to sink one's hands into the warm earth, to feel at one's fingertips the possibilities of the new season.

~Kate Morton

She felt like a fictional character who'd escaped the book in which her creator had carefully and kindly trapped her, taken a pair of scissors to her outline and leaped, free.

~Kate Morton

Thinking of nothing. Trying to think of nothing. Thinking of everything.

~Kate Morton

There's a market for mysteries for adults. That feeling of opening a book and delving inside and not coming out until you've closed the book.

~Kate Morton

But history is a faithless teller whose cruel recourse to hindsight makes fools of its actors.

~Kate Morton

I write what I'd like to read and just hope that, along the way, others might like to read them, too.

~Kate Morton

All true readers have a book, a moment when real life is never going to be able to compete with fiction again.

~Kate Morton

But happiness ... happiness grows at our own firesides," she said. "It is not to be picked in strangers' gardens." ~ The House at Riverton

~Kate Morton

While I wasn't certain how I felt about spiritualists, I was certain enough about the type of people who were drawn to them. Only people unhappy in the present seek to know the future.

~Kate Morton

Oh, Grey, no one really likes keeping secrets. The only thing that makes a secret fun is knowing that you weren't supposed to tell it.

~Kate Morton

We're all unique, just never in the ways we imagine.

~Kate Morton

Darling girl, blinded by foolish thoughts of love. How to tell her that the hearts of men were not so easily won. If won, rarely kept.

~Kate Morton

It's a funny thing, character, the way it brands people as they age, rising from within to leave its scar.

~Kate Morton

Oh, there was harm indeed for a young lady flattered by the brief attentions of a handsome man.

~Kate Morton

When reason sleeps, the monsters of repression will emerge.

~Kate Morton

...which fairy-tale princess ever chose her maid over her prince?

~Kate Morton

Time had a way of moulding people into shapes they themselves no longer recognised.

~Kate Morton

Nell was not one for friends and had never hidden her distaste for most other humans, their neurotic compulsion for the acquisition of allies.

~Kate Morton

But everyone's an expert with the virtue of hindsight . . . .

~Kate Morton

She was the sort of person for whom fear was the natural response to that beyond explanation.

~Kate Morton

They say everyone needs something to love.

~Kate Morton

. . . companions were to be valued, wherever one found them.

~Kate Morton

Happiness in life is not a given, it must be seized.

~Kate Morton

She says there are stories everywhere and that people who wait for the right one to come along before setting pen to paper end up with very empty pages.

~Kate Morton

Rejection is a cancer, Edie. It eats away at a person.

~Kate Morton

To abandon a child, she had once said to someone, when she thought Cassandra couldn't hear, was an act so cold, so careless, it refused forgiveness.

~Kate Morton

Those who live in memories are never really dead." *The House At Riverton*

~Kate Morton

when you love someone you'll do just about anything to keep them.

~Kate Morton

Had any poet adequately described the wretched ugliness of a loved one turned inside out with grief?

~Kate Morton

After all, it's the librarian's sworn purpose to bring books together with

their one true reader.

~Kate Morton

That, my dear, is what makes a character interesting, their secrets.

~Kate Morton

Sometimes, Edie, a person's feelings aren't rational. At least, they don't seem that way on the surface. You have to dig a little deeper to understand what lies at the base

~Kate Morton

The stretch of years leaves none unmarked: the blissful sense of youthful invincibility peels away and responsibility brings its weight to bear.

~Kate Morton

I've heard it said that children born to stressful times never shake the air of woe . . . .

~Kate Morton

If you don't stop apologizing, you're going to convince me you've done something wrong.

~Kate Morton

Only people unhappy in the present seek to know the future.

~Kate Morton

But in my humble opinion, a house needs a good party once in a while; remind folks it exists.

~Kate Morton

A way of looking at you that told you she was listening, that she understood all you were saying, and all you weren't.

~Kate Morton

So much in life came down to timing.

~Kate Morton

Always remember, with a strong enough will, even the weak can wield great power.

~Kate Morton

Doors lead to things and I've never met one I haven't wanted to open.

~Kate Morton

Mother didn't understand that children aren't frightened by stories; that their lives are full of far more frightening things than those contained in fairy tales.

~Kate Morton

Will history remember us, I wonder? I do hope so - to imagine that one might do something, touch an event somehow, & thereby transcend the bounds of a single human lifetime!

~Kate Morton

I sound contemptuous, but I am not. I am interested--intrigued even--by the way time erases real lives, leaving only vague imprints. Blood and spirit fade away so that only names and dates remain.

~Kate Morton

People might think writing is a hard business, but it's nowhere near acting.

~Kate Morton

In retrospect, it seems like everything in my life led to me becoming a writer. I just didn't realise it at the time.

~Kate Morton

I'd pretty much given up hope of being published, so I just wrote the

book I wanted to read.

~Kate Morton

She did as she felt, and she felt a great deal.

~Kate Morton

Hope's one thing, expectation's quite another.

~Kate Morton

I love the structural part of the writing process.

~Kate Morton

Nighttime is different. Things are otherwise when the world is black. Insecurities and hurts, anxieties and fears grow teeth at night. p493

~Kate Morton

For it is said, you know, that a letter will always seek a reader; that sooner or later, like it or not, words have a way of finding the light, of making their secrets known.

~Kate Morton

A twinge at the edge of her lips and she continued, the soft, slow lilt of recitation: "Ancient walls that sing the distant hours.

~Kate Morton

Even the most pragmatic person fell victim at times to a longing for something other.

~Kate Morton

Percy climbed the first step, then the next, remembering the thousands of times she'd run through the door, in a hurry to get to the future, to whatever was coming next, to this moment.

~Kate Morton



Photographs force us to see people before their future weighed them down, before they knew their endings.

~Kate Morton

I simply love writing good stories, that's my passion.

~Kate Morton

She hadn't wanted to be loved carefully, only well.

~Kate Morton

Curiosity might have killed the cat, but little girls usually fared much better.

~Kate Morton

Children don't require of their parents a past and they find something faintly unbelievable, almost embarrassing, in parental claims to a prior existence.

~Kate Morton

Adults weren't supposed to understand their children and you were doing something wrong if they did.

~Kate Morton

...She's understood the power of stories. Their magical ability to refill the wounded part of people.

~Kate Morton

Better to lose oneself in action than to wither in despair.

~Kate Morton

She was the breeze on a summer's day, the first drops of rain when the earth was parched, light from the evening star.

~Kate Morton

I am not a storyteller . . . not like the others. I only have one tale to tell.

~Kate Morton

Lil had always believed that a person's duty was to make the best of the hand they were dealt. No use wondering what might have been, she used to say, all that matters is what is.

~Kate Morton

The happiest folk are those that are busy, for their minds are starved of time to seek out woe.

~Kate Morton

Life could be cruel enough these days without the truth making it worse.

~Kate Morton

A true friend is a light in the dark. Viven

~Kate Morton

He had the vague sense of standing on a threshold, the crossing of which would change everything.

~Kate Morton

... for home is a magnet that lures back even its most abstracted children.

~Kate Morton

Quite simply the book and I were meant to be together.

~Kate Morton

Ah, well. Life's too short for moderation, wouldn't you say?

~Kate Morton

... people who'd led dull and blameless lives did not give thanks for

second chances.

~Kate Morton

What could be more perfect than marrying the person you love.

~Kate Morton

The world was an awfully large place and it wasn't easy to find a person who'd gone missing sixty years earlier, even if that person was oneself.

~Kate Morton

I'm good with words, but not the spoken kind; I've often thought what a marvelous thing it would be if I could only conduct relationships on paper.

~Kate Morton

She's one of the few people able to look beyond the lines on my face to see the twenty-year-old who lives inside.

~Kate Morton

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