

# Lev Grossman Quotes

*Book, Writing, People, Thinking, Real, Way, World, Hero, Pain, Magic,  
Important, Strong, Country, Want, Long, Children, Fantasy, Should, College,  
Doe*

You don't learn about yourself by being alone, you learn about yourself from other people.

~Lev Grossman

If there's a single lesson that life teaches us, it's that wishing doesn't make it so.

~Lev Grossman

It's an engrossing look at the way the flow of information shapes history-as well as a rare glimpse into the soul of the hardcore geek

~Lev Grossman

You didn't get the quest you wanted, you got the one you could do.

~Lev Grossman

He who completes a quest does not merely find something. He becomes something.

~Lev Grossman

The danger would be going back, or staying still. The only way out was through. The past was ruins, but the present was still in play.

~Lev Grossman

I have no doubt there are magician psychopaths, and magician serial killers. I doubt Brakebills admissions is very good at screening for those.

~Lev Grossman

Some of the comments on YouTube make you weep for the future of humanity just for the spelling alone, never mind the obscenity and the naked hatred.

~Lev Grossman

Don't take anyone's writing advice too seriously.

~Lev Grossman

It didn't matter where you were, if you were in a room full of books you were at least halfway home.

~Lev Grossman

That was the thing about the world: it wasn't that things were harder than you thought they were going to be, it was that they were hard in ways that you didn't expect.

~Lev Grossman

Stop looking for the next secret door that is going to lead you to your real life. Stop waiting. This is it: there's nothing else.

~Lev Grossman

By now he had learned enough to know that when he was getting annoyed at somebody else, it was usually because there was something that he himself should be doing, and he wasn't doing it.

~Lev Grossman

The process of learning is a nonstop orgy of wonderment.

~Lev Grossman

It's time to live with what we have and mourn what we lost.

~Lev Grossman

You're all so obsessed with other worlds, you're so convinced that this one is crap and everywhere else is great, but you've never bothered to figure out what's going on here!

~Lev Grossman

Escapism has value, even if I don't know what its value is, exactly. Maybe it's just part of some healthy way that we deal with the world.

~Lev Grossman

A magician is strong because he feels the pain between what the world is and what he would make of it.

~Lev Grossman

There is really no end to life's little humiliations.

~Lev Grossman

Being brave was easy when you would rather die than give up.

~Lev Grossman

The novel is a highly corrupt medium, after all - in the end the vast majority of them simply aren't that great, and are destined to be forgotten.

~Lev Grossman

The truth doesn't always make a good story, does it?

~Lev Grossman

As a writer I'm more drawn to villains who are just slightly mad.

~Lev Grossman

I love playing with the conventions of fantasy, and breaking rules, and crossing lines.

~Lev Grossman

I'm a fantasy writer. I don't do SF. This is important to me. If you're not clear on what genre you're in, everything gets muddled, and it's hard to know which rules you're breaking.

~Lev Grossman

The line between outside and inside is fuzzier in fantasy. Maybe that's something people are looking for.

~Lev Grossman

I read Susanna Clarke's Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell, which I think will subsequently be recognized as one of the first great novels of the 21st century.

~Lev Grossman

I feel very conscious of my influences. T.H. White is very important for me.

~Lev Grossman

My ultimate goal is to drive people back to the books, when I think of an adaptation.

~Lev Grossman

It's wonderful to play around with fantasy, because there are an amazing number of as-yet-unbroken rules out there.

~Lev Grossman

Magic is wild, dangerous stuff. You never realize how useful limitations are until it's much too late.

~Lev Grossman

Book tours are excellent things, and one is lucky to get to go on one, but they have a way of leeching away one's will to live.

~Lev Grossman

Read everything. If you haven't read everything, you'll never be able to write anything.

~Lev Grossman

The real world is horrible.

~Lev Grossman

It's natural for a child to assume that his or her own childhood is unremarkable.

~Lev Grossman

People - me included - want to get excited about books. Good books are a good thing.

~Lev Grossman

It turns out that there is something that can compete with free: easy.

~Lev Grossman

I don't know if I've ever derived such an immediate sense of calm and well-being from any book as I did from 'Right Ho, Jeeves.' It was like I was Pac-Man and the book was a power-up.

~Lev Grossman

We have reached the point where ignorance and neglect are the best we can hope for in a ruler.

~Lev Grossman

Genuinely social people never ceased to amaze him. Their brains seemed to generate an inexhaustible fund of things to say, naturally, with no effort, out of nothing at all.

~Lev Grossman

Magic: it was what happened when the mind met the world, and the mind won for a change.

~Lev Grossman

Everybody wanted to be the hero of their own story. Nobody wanted to be comic relief.

~Lev Grossman

Being a hero, the man had observed, is largely a matter of knowing one's cues.

~Lev Grossman

Though the funny thing about never being asked for anything is that after a while you start to feel like maybe you don't have anything worth giving.

~Lev Grossman

He wasn't surprised. He was used to this anticlimactic feeling, where by the time you've done all the work to get something you don't even want it anymore.

~Lev Grossman

It's a terrible thing for a book, when you feel like you're supposed to like it.

~Lev Grossman

My book group has one rule: no books for adults. We read young adult fiction only.

~Lev Grossman

The real problem with being around James was that he was always the hero. And what did that make you? Either the sidekick or the villain.

~Lev Grossman

I got my heart's desire, and there my troubles began.

~Lev Grossman

The problem with growing up is that once you're grown up, the people who aren't grown up aren't fun anymore.

~Lev Grossman

Until now, I've been a kind of binge-writer - I'll carve out five or six hours on a weekend day and make a large container of espresso and just bang out a lot of words.

~Lev Grossman

I read a lot of literary theory when I was in graduate school, especially about novels, and the best book I ever read about endings was Peter Brooks' 'Reading for the Plot. '

~Lev Grossman

Oddly, the meanings of books are defined for me much more by their beginnings and middles than they are by their endings.

~Lev Grossman

It's a great thing when you feel that you recognize yourself, deeply and movingly, in a work of literature.

~Lev Grossman

I've stayed in houses that were in the country, and in England, but I'm still not sure that I've stayed in an English country house.

~Lev Grossman

I think every fantasy reader secretly believes they know how magic works.

~Lev Grossman

I studied the cello for a long time, from when I was little up through college.

~Lev Grossman

I recognize that on paper, you can't really tell that I'm a fan or a nerd.

~Lev Grossman

I guess I was raised in a household with a lot of reverence for the physical sanctity of books. You didn't destroy books.

~Lev Grossman

I came from an anxious, overly intense East Coast academic family. That was the way of our tribe.



~Lev Grossman

Josh speculated about the hypothetical contents of an imaginary porn magazine for intelligent trees that would be entitled Enthouse.

~Lev Grossman

A novel with a bad middle is a bad book. A bad ending is something I've just gotten in the habit of forgiving.

~Lev Grossman

And I'm not as young as I once was. At my age, I don't have time to be bored.

~Lev Grossman

Becoming an author changes your attitude too. Once you see where books come from, and how they're made, they never seem quite as sacred again.

~Lev Grossman

It was so much easier to be angry. Being angry made him feel strong, even though-- and this contradiction did nothing to diminish his anger-- he was angry only because his position was so weak.

~Lev Grossman

Being a writer can be isolating. It's good to be among readers and booksellers.

~Lev Grossman

How often have I met and disliked writers whose books I love; and conversely, hated the books and then wound up liking the writer? Too often.

~Lev Grossman

The life I should be living had been mislaid through some clerical error

by the cosmic bureaucracy.

~Lev Grossman

I have spent many, many hours reading J.K. Rowling's work. I am a known 'Harry Potter' fan.

~Lev Grossman

You're saying the gods don't have free will." "The power to make mistakes," Penny said. "Only we have that. Mortals

~Lev Grossman

Do you promise to hate my parents as much as I do?" "Oh, absolutely," Quentin said. "Maybe even more.

~Lev Grossman

I'm happy to report that 'The New Press' is still in business to this day. But not thanks to me. I was a really bad publishing intern.

~Lev Grossman

His whole personality was like an elaborate joke that he never stopped telling.

~Lev Grossman

About as close you can get to the perfect cerebral thriller: searingly smart, ridiculously funny, and fast as hell... I defy anybody to read the first page and not keep going to the last.

~Lev Grossman

She tortured everybody around her, but only because she was more tortured than anyone.

~Lev Grossman

Maybe this was one of those times when being a hero didn't involve looking particularly brave. It was just doing what you should.

~Lev Grossman

Careful what you hunt, lest you catch it.

~Lev Grossman

There's a special gut-check moment the first time you write a scene in which somebody casts a spell.

~Lev Grossman

We're wired to expect the world to be brighter and more meaningful and more obviously interesting than it actually is. And when we realize that it isn't, we start looking around for the real world.

~Lev Grossman

I mean, when you're tired of book reviews, you're tired of life.

~Lev Grossman

I never thought about doing a sequel when I was actually writing 'The Magicians.' I only ever considered it a standalone.

~Lev Grossman

We have lived too long. The great days are past.

~Lev Grossman

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