

Lorrie Moore

Quotes

*Writing, People, Thinking, Stories, Art, Real, Want, Heart, Children, Eye, Kind,
Character, Love Is, Years, Believe, Light, Mean, Play, Way, Long*

Your numbness is something perhaps you cannot help. It is what the world has done to you. But your coldness. That is what you do to the world.

~Lorrie Moore

This is what happened in love. One of you cried a lot and then both of you grew sarcastic.

~Lorrie Moore

For love to last, you had to have illusions or have no illusions at all. But you had to stick to one or the other. It was the switching back and forth that endangered things.

~Lorrie Moore

Usually she ordered a cup of coffee and a cup of tea, as well as a brownie, propping up her sadness with chocolate and caffeine so that it became an anxiety.

~Lorrie Moore

A short story is a love affair, a novel is a marriage. A short story is a photograph; a novel is a film.

~Lorrie Moore

One had to build shelters. One had to make pockets and live inside them.

~Lorrie Moore

They had, finally, the only thing anyone really wants in life: someone to hold your hand when you die.

~Lorrie Moore

She was unequal to anyone's wistfulness. She had made too little of her life. Its loneliness shamed her like a crime.

~Lorrie Moore

The only really good piece of advice I have for my students is, 'Write something you'd never show your mother or father. And you know what they say? I could never do that!'

~Lorrie Moore

If one publishes, then one is creating a public record of Learning to Write.

~Lorrie Moore

(Such a life)engaged gross quantities of hope and despair and set them wildly side by side, like a Third World country of the heart.

~Lorrie Moore

You chose love like a belief, a faith, a place, a box for one's heart to knock against like a spook in the house.

~Lorrie Moore

Writers have no real area of expertise. They are merely generalists with a highly inflamed sense of punctuation.

~Lorrie Moore

Forgiveness lives alone and far off down the road, but bitterness and art are close, gossipy neighbors, sharing the same clothesline, hanging out their things, getting their laundry confused.

~Lorrie Moore

To write a short story, you have to be able to stay up all night.

~Lorrie Moore

You are unhappy because you believe in such a thing as happy.

~Lorrie Moore

But that inadequacy, or feeling of inadequacy, never really goes away. You just have to trudge ahead in the rain, regardless.

~Lorrie Moore

I don't go back and look at my early work, because the last time I did, many years ago, it left me cringing. If one publishes, then one is creating a public record of Learning to Write.

~Lorrie Moore

I had never feared insomnia before--like prison, wouldn't it just give you more time to read?

~Lorrie Moore

Pleasantness was the machismo of the Midwest. There was something athletic about it. You flexed your face into a smile and let it hover there like the dare of a cat.

~Lorrie Moore

Every arrangement in life carried with it the sadness, the sentimental shadow, of its not being something else, but only itself.

~Lorrie Moore

If you're suicidal, and you don't actually kill yourself, you become known as 'wry.

~Lorrie Moore

This lunge at moral fastidiousness was something she'd noticed a lot in people around here. They were not good people. They were not kind. But they recycled their newspapers!

~Lorrie Moore

Nothing's a joke with me. It just all comes out like one.

~Lorrie Moore

I've come to realize that life, while being everything, is also strangely not much. Except when the light shines on it a different way and then

you realize it's a lot after all!

~Lorrie Moore

You know, as fiction writers, if our instincts are off, we can't pay our bills.

~Lorrie Moore

Love is the answer, said the songs, and that's OK. It was OK, I supposed, as an answer. But no more than that. It was not a solution; it wasn't really even an answer, just a reply.

~Lorrie Moore

When she packed up to leave, she knew that she was saying goodbye to something important, which was not that bad, in a way, because it meant that at least you had said hello to it to begin with.

~Lorrie Moore

Editing is just ongoing. I don't count drafts, or know what would fully constitute a draft. But I try to fix as I go. And there's always more to fix.

~Lorrie Moore

I wondered about the half-life of regret.

~Lorrie Moore

I don't think of any sentence as a "one-liner", but I do pay attention to how people actually speak when they are being funny. Rhythm is key.

~Lorrie Moore

I would never understand photography, the sneaky, murderous taxidermy of it.

~Lorrie Moore

Humor comes from the surprise release of some buried tension.

~Lorrie Moore

She hadn't been given the proper tools to make a real life with, she decided, that was it. She'd been given a can of gravy and a hairbrush and told, "There you go." -- Willing

~Lorrie Moore

All the world's a stage we're going through.

~Lorrie Moore

shopping for clothes is like masturbation - everyone does it, but it isn't very interesting and therefore should be done alone, in an embarrassed fashion, and never be the topic of party conversation.

~Lorrie Moore

Plots are for dead people.

~Lorrie Moore

The affectionate farce I make of him ignores the ways I feel his lack of love for me. But we are managing.

~Lorrie Moore

It is like having a book out from the library. It is like constantly having a book out from the library.

~Lorrie Moore

We were in dialogue that was about something other than what we were saying.

~Lorrie Moore

Perhaps we had at last reached that stage of intimacy that destroys intimacy.

~Lorrie Moore

A novel is a daily labor over a period of years. A novel is a job. But a story can be like a mad, lovely visitor, with whom you spend a rather

exciting weekend.

~Lorrie Moore

Adults are living increasingly as children: completely in their imaginations. Reading Harry Potter while every newspaper in the country goes out of business. They know so little that is real.

~Lorrie Moore

I love plays. Even bad ones. I like the fact that actual live, breathing people are standing before you in tense situations that you are not personally responsible for.

~Lorrie Moore

Personally I've never put much store by honesty- I mean how can you trust a word whose first letter you don't even pronounce

~Lorrie Moore

If God Speaks Through Burning Bushes, Let's Burn Bush and Listen to What God Says.

~Lorrie Moore

An agony. The exit like the entrance - but reserved. A palindrome: gut-tug.

~Lorrie Moore

One should never turn one's back on a vivid imagination.

~Lorrie Moore

Twenty-year-olds have a kind of emotional idealism about relationships and about the world that enables them to say, 'No, you lied to me. Goodbye.' When they see wickedness, they walk away.

~Lorrie Moore

People will do anything, anything, for a really nice laugh.

~Lorrie Moore

You emptied the top rack of the dishwasher but not the bottom, so the clean dishes have gotten all mixed up with the dirty ones - and now you want to have sex?

~Lorrie Moore

I always do the wrong. I do the wrong thing so much that the times I actually do the right thing stand out so brightly in my memory that I forget I always do the wrong thing.

~Lorrie Moore

I want to pretend there's such a thing as requited love. As the endurance of love.

~Lorrie Moore

I wished for eternal and intriguing muteness. I would be the Mysterious Dumb Girl, the Enigmatic Elf. The human voice no longer interested me.

~Lorrie Moore

We had put almost all of our possessions in storage, which was a metaphor for being twenty, as were so many things.

~Lorrie Moore

It was part of being a girl in the '60s that you were creative.

~Lorrie Moore

Love is art, not truth. It's like painting scenery.

~Lorrie Moore

Better to think of writing, of what one does, as an activity, rather than an identity to keep the calling a verb rather than a noun.

~Lorrie Moore

Later I would come to believe that erotic ties were all a spell, a temporary psychosis, even a kind of violence, or at least they coexisted with these states.

~Lorrie Moore

A funny line can never exist on its own. It needs to be surrounded by mood and circumstances.

~Lorrie Moore

If I retain any freshness of approach, it's by going slowly having long intervals between finished projects.

~Lorrie Moore

I did think reviewers were supposed to be polite about story collections - collections are rather delicate creatures in the literary environment - but not everybody got this memo, I guess.

~Lorrie Moore

Perhaps she drives men away. Perhaps, without even being able to help herself, she just puts men into her ill-tempered car and drives them off: to quarries, dumps, small anonymous bodies of water.

~Lorrie Moore

This was my modest dream come true: unambitious flight. The kind that never even got high enough for a view.

~Lorrie Moore

Love is a fever," she said. "And when you come out of it you'll discover whether you've been lucky - or not.

~Lorrie Moore

Sometimes I ask myself if writing novels is even respectable.

~Lorrie Moore

But family life sometimes had a vortex, like weather. It could be like a tornado in a quiet zigzag: get close enough and you might see within it a spinning eighteen-wheeler and a woman.

~Lorrie Moore

Women now were told not to settle for second best, told that they deserved better, but at a time, it seemed, when there was so much less to go around.

~Lorrie Moore

Things between us were dissolving like an ice cub in a glass: the smaller it got, the faster it disappeared.

~Lorrie Moore

I don't have a love life. I have a like life.

~Lorrie Moore

She was afraid, and the afraid, she realized, sought opportunities for bravery in love.

~Lorrie Moore

I just don't want you to feel uncomfortable about this," he says. Say: "Hey. I am a very cool person. I am tough." Show him your bicep.

~Lorrie Moore

Those are the love killers. They love you and then they kill you. They're from another planet. Supposedly.

~Lorrie Moore

Rather than a teaching tool, I think a novel is more of a witnessing entity. A witnessing entity? What is that? I just want the reader to step in and experience it as a story.

~Lorrie Moore

I've accrued a kind of patience, I believe, loosely like change.

~Lorrie Moore

When you were six you thought mistress meant to put your shoes on the wrong feet. Now you are older and know it can mean many things, but essentially it means to put your shoes on the wrong feet.

~Lorrie Moore

Everything one reads is nourishment of some sort - good food or junk food - and one assumes it all goes in and has its way with your brain cells.

~Lorrie Moore

There seemed nothing so true as a yellow tree.

~Lorrie Moore

I always had the sense with her that she didn't suffer fools gladly but that life was taking great pains to show her how.

~Lorrie Moore

You know, I'm just a very boring, not very funny person in person. I don't feel pressured to be otherwise.

~Lorrie Moore

I've never been to a dinner party where everyone at the dinner table didn't say something funny.

~Lorrie Moore

Don't make your own life your project in your own life: total waste of time.

~Lorrie Moore

I don't care if I'm a fish, I still want a bicycle.

~Lorrie Moore

A DARK MATTER is a page-turning thriller of every sort: psychological, sociological, epistemological . Plus, it's really scary.

~Lorrie Moore

As the most recently arrived to earthly life, children can seem in lingering possession of some heavenly lidless eye.

~Lorrie Moore

Surely that was why faith had been invented: to raise teenagers without dying. Although of course it was also why death was invented: to escape teenagers altogether.

~Lorrie Moore

She smiled at him, with longing. 'Where do you live,' she asked, 'and how do I get there?'

~Lorrie Moore

Surrealism could not be made up. It was the very electricity of the real.

~Lorrie Moore

An author's life is different, complex, and ongoing, while a character's remains frozen in one little story.

~Lorrie Moore

I missed him. Love, I realized, was something your spine memorized. There was nothing you could do about that.

~Lorrie Moore

Most things good for writing are bad for life.

~Lorrie Moore

Once love had seemed like magic. Now it seemed like tricks.

~Lorrie Moore

I do have people in mind when I write. I don't know precisely who they are, however, or how many of them there are.

~Lorrie Moore

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