

# Margaret Drabble

## Quotes

*People, Book, Children, Needs, Failing, Trying, Discovery, Positive, Teaching, Mother, Facts, Tired, Writing, Wisdom, Nice, Novelists, Witty, Mind, Too Much, Can't Win*

When nothing is sure, everything is possible.

~Margaret Drabble

How unjust life is, to make physical charm so immediately apparent or absent, when one can get away with vices untold for ever.

~Margaret Drabble

Scenery can be a violent stimulant.

~Margaret Drabble

Family life itself, that safest, most traditional, most approved of female choices, is not a sanctuary: It is, perpetually, a dangerous place.

~Margaret Drabble

Lord knows what incommunicable small terrors infants go through, unknown to all.

~Margaret Drabble

Novels, since the birth of the genre, have been full of rejected, seduced, and abandoned maidens, whose proper fate is to die.

~Margaret Drabble

The women are always vixens or monsters. They can't just be normal people in the book.

~Margaret Drabble

Nothing fails like failure

~Margaret Drabble

Why can't people be both flexible and efficient?

~Margaret Drabble

The human mind can bear plenty of reality but not too much intermittent gloom.

~Margaret Drabble

Our desire to conform is greater than our respect for objective facts.

~Margaret Drabble

Men and women can never be close. They can hardly speak to one another in the same language. But are compelled, forever, to try, and therefore even in defeat there is no peace.

~Margaret Drabble

Perhaps the rare and simple pleasure of being seen for what one is compensates for the misery of being it.

~Margaret Drabble

I actually remember feeling delight, at two o'clock in the morning, when the baby woke for his feed, because I so longed to have another look at him.

~Margaret Drabble

What foolsmiddle-classgirls are to expect other people to respect the same gods as themselves and E M Forster.

~Margaret Drabble

There are some writers who wrote too much. There are others who wrote enough. There are yet others who wrote nothing like enough to satisfy their admirers, and Jane Austen is certainly one of these.

~Margaret Drabble

I'd rather be at the end of a dying tradition, which I admire, than at the beginning of a tradition which I deplore.

~Margaret Drabble

You have to be careful what you imagine, because the act of imagining is the act of encouraging yourself to be a certain kind of person.

~Margaret Drabble

England's not a bad country? It's just a mean, cold, ugly, divided, tired, clapped-out, post-imperial, post-industrial slag-heap covered in polystyrene hamburger cartons. 286

~Margaret Drabble

On one thing professionals and amateurs agree: mothers can't win.

~Margaret Drabble

The middle years, caught between children and parents, free of neither: the past stretches back too densely, it is too thickly populated, the future has not yet thinned out.

~Margaret Drabble

Poverty, therefore, was comparative. One measured it by a sliding scale. One was always poor, in terms of those who were richer.

~Margaret Drabble

Nothing succeeds, they say, like success. And certainly nothing fails like failure.

~Margaret Drabble

Sometimes it seems the only accomplishment my education ever bestowed on me was the ability to think in quotations.

~Margaret Drabble

I've always thought that very few people grow old as admirably as academics. At least books never let them down.

~Margaret Drabble

If I knew what the meanings of my books were, I wouldn't have bothered to write them.

~Margaret Drabble

I need words and print... I need print like an addict. I could live without it, perhaps. But I hope I never have to try.

~Margaret Drabble

There would be more genuine rejoicing at the discovery of a complete new novel by Jane Austen than any other literary discovery, short of a new major play by Shakespeare.

~Margaret Drabble

Some of what we read in classical literature is not relative to our condition, but then many women novelists and poets have turned it upside down and told the stories from the other point of view.

~Margaret Drabble

London, how could one ever be tired of it?

~Margaret Drabble

I have switched on this modern laptop machine. And I have told myself that I must resist the temptation to start playing solitaire upon it.

~Margaret Drabble

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