

Marjane Satrapi

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Writing, Book, Country, Drawing, Want, Iran, Stories, Real,
Kids, Way, Men, Believe, Mean, Children, Cinema, World, Two, Years*

Life is too short to be lived badly.

~Marjane Satrapi

The real war is not between the West and the East. The real war is between intelligent and stupid people.

~Marjane Satrapi

All big changes of the world come from words.

~Marjane Satrapi

Drawing is the first language of the human being before writing. It's a transcription of how the human being sees reality, not reality itself.

~Marjane Satrapi

When we're afraid, we lose all sense of analysis and reflection. Our fear paralyzes us. Besides, fear has always been the driving force behind all dictators' repression.

~Marjane Satrapi

Culture and education are the lethal weapons against all kinds of fundamentalism.

~Marjane Satrapi

My mother always told me I had to do 100 times better than a man. I had to work hard at maths, and learn four languages.

~Marjane Satrapi

The world is not about Batman and Robin fighting the Joker; things are more complicated than that. And nothing is scarier than the people who try to find easy answers to complicated questions.

~Marjane Satrapi

The best thing I ever did in my life was to ask, 'Do I like everybody?' And the answer was, 'No.' So why should everybody like me? If people

are against me, so what? I'm against them too.

~Marjane Satrapi

Nothing's worse than saying goodbye. It's a little like dying.

~Marjane Satrapi

Image is an international language.

~Marjane Satrapi

Evil is international and the fanatic is international and universal. There is no difference between a Muslim fanatic, a Christian fanatic, even a secular fanatic.

~Marjane Satrapi

We can only feel sorry for ourselves when our misfortunes are still supportable. Once this limit is crossed, the only way to bear the unbearable is to laugh at it.

~Marjane Satrapi

One can forgive but one should never forget.

~Marjane Satrapi

I'm someone who lived in a war for five years. I received bombs on my head every day of my childhood. Did that stop me from living? Did that stop me from laughing?

~Marjane Satrapi

I respect humanity. That's my religion. I can't stand these religions that are really businesses. So much money everywhere that's going to buy a really nice house in heaven - or what? I don't get it.

~Marjane Satrapi

You hear people saying, 'Oh I'm so tired, I've had enough of Cannes.' How can you have enough of Cannes? It's just the best place to be, like

a fairytale.

~Marjane Satrapi

Always keep your dignity and be true to yourself.

~Marjane Satrapi

People are so afraid to say the word "comic". It makes you think of a grown man with pimples, a ponytail and a big belly. Change it to "graphic novel" and that disappears.

~Marjane Satrapi

You know, they say in France that translation is like a woman: she is either beautiful or faithful.

~Marjane Satrapi

You draw the character from all angles - side, profile, back, etc. so the animator has this character in all the ways it looks like.

~Marjane Satrapi

Here's the problem: the description of the world is always reduced to yes or no, black or white. Superficial stories. Superhero stories. One side is the good one. The other one is evil.

~Marjane Satrapi

I realized that I was more of a sprinter than a marathon man. With a long, long project, I get bored easily.

~Marjane Satrapi

You never have these moments that, you know, are always perfect. Always something happens.

~Marjane Satrapi

Hunger eats civilization. The West is not hungry; that's why they can say they're so civilized. Civilization is the biggest bluff!

~Marjane Satrapi

The Germans sell chemical weapons to Iran and Iraq. The wounded are then sent to Germany to be treated. Veritable human guinea pigs.

~Marjane Satrapi

Writing is not for me. I completely lose my sense of humor when I write. I become extremely pathetic, very sensational. Images give me possibilities that I don't have with words.

~Marjane Satrapi

Fear has always been the driving force behind all dictators' repression.

~Marjane Satrapi

Politicians think they have answers for everything. We artists, we only have questions.

~Marjane Satrapi

The most natural thing for us is drawing. The characters [in Persepolis] are hand drawn. We're not technical people. We don't know how to type.

~Marjane Satrapi

I had learned that you should always shout louder than your aggressor.

~Marjane Satrapi

I became the voice of a generation in a very surprising way, because many Iranians recognize themselves in it. But that is not what I wanted.

~Marjane Satrapi

I like to make mechanical stuff. Once I make a film I have to do whatever I can make onstage I make it onstage.

~Marjane Satrapi

I was a westerner in Iran, an Iranian in the West. I had no identity. I didn't even know anymore why I was living.

~Marjane Satrapi

I was a child who had a life, who had hopes, and I wished that a bomb would not fall on my head.

~Marjane Satrapi

The language in a comic book or a graphic novel and the cinematographic language are really not the same language. They are false brother and sister. It's not at all the same.

~Marjane Satrapi

Today, we don't talk about history. The past is two weeks ago, and the future is two weeks after.

~Marjane Satrapi

If you know a little bit the psychology of human beings, you have to understand that if you say something you should not do, then everybody wants to do it.

~Marjane Satrapi

I like making comics and animation because it takes such a long time. I'm not a runner of the 100 meter. I like marathons. The longer it takes, the better I feel.

~Marjane Satrapi

With animation, if something does not fit, you always have the time to change it. When you make a live-action movie, when your days of shooting are over, they are over forever.

~Marjane Satrapi

I wanted to do my artistic work, and in Iran you have censorship. It was difficult for me to do the work I wanted to do.

~Marjane Satrapi

I'm extremely unbearable. You know, I'm narcissistic and at the same time I'm very charming - I think.

~Marjane Satrapi

Adaptation of books is never a success. When the author wants to make it, it's even worse.

~Marjane Satrapi

Drawing - it's the first language of human beings, before writing, before even talking, before words, human beings was drawing.

~Marjane Satrapi

You cannot be completely nice. It's impossible. Who is it? Who is the perfect guy? Show him to me! It doesn't exist. And thank god.

~Marjane Satrapi

I almost don't know how to write an email.

~Marjane Satrapi

If you're not [Federico] Fellini you might make something very vulgar. Animation made it possible to maintain unity with all these different narratives.

~Marjane Satrapi

I loved Chiara Mastroianni voice, her talent, her generosity. We rehearsed for two months...She's a workaholic and perfectionist, like Vincent [Paronnaud] and myself.

~Marjane Satrapi

A well-trained cat doesn't exist because a cat remains a cat.

~Marjane Satrapi

A cat can never be well-trained because they're too independent.

~Marjane Satrapi

But violence is news, to a certain extent, and people don't want complicated news. Because as soon as you realize things are complicated, your life becomes more complicated.

~Marjane Satrapi

I'm not somebody that keeps the thing in her heart. I can get very angry for five minutes, but then it's finished. Once I've yelled, it's over.

~Marjane Satrapi

The first writing of the human being was drawing, not writing.

~Marjane Satrapi

You have to be narcissistic to be an artist. You have to think you are the centre of the whole thing otherwise why do you create? The only thing is to recognise it, and then you make the best of it.

~Marjane Satrapi

Cinema is a world of imagination.

~Marjane Satrapi

In any case, it's the cowardice of people like you who give dictators the chance to install themselves!

~Marjane Satrapi

Life is absolutely unbearable. And we're going to die.

~Marjane Satrapi

For me, who loves to draw and who loves to write and cannot choose between one or the other, the comic is the best form.

~Marjane Satrapi

Whether this tale be true or false, none can tell, for none were there to witness it themselves.

~Marjane Satrapi

For me, drawing is a question of death and life. Every day I draw, I write, I do something.

~Marjane Satrapi

America is a very special place. In this country, you have the best and the worst at the same time. Whatever you can imagine.

~Marjane Satrapi

If today I have to make a political statement, it is, 'I love beauty.' I think beauty makes people better.

~Marjane Satrapi

In every religion, you find the same extremists.

~Marjane Satrapi

As a director, you have to understand what is happening - if I don't understand it, you can't make changes.

~Marjane Satrapi

I realized then that I didn't understand anything. I read all the books I could.

~Marjane Satrapi

Once again, I arrived at my usual conclusion: one must educate oneself.

~Marjane Satrapi

You know, the cynicism that is in the politics, it is not for my soul. It makes me - out of me, an extremely bitter, cynical person that I hate to see in the mirror, really.

~Marjane Satrapi

I love the French for their sarcasm, their irony. I love them for their bad moods.

~Marjane Satrapi

I am very bad at computers. I don't really know how to write email.

~Marjane Satrapi

To tell you the truth, I never wanted to become a moviemaker. It was like I was a cinepihile, and I go, like, three or four times per week to the cinema, and I like to watch films.

~Marjane Satrapi

I'm not a religious person at all.

~Marjane Satrapi

I like to be sad once in a while. You need it for your equilibrium.

~Marjane Satrapi

This clash of the culture, East and the West, us and them, Muslim and Christian, does not exist.

~Marjane Satrapi

I don't make a career plan. I take things the way they come.

~Marjane Satrapi

It's true that, in Iran, women have half of the rights men do. And yet 66 per cent of students are women.

~Marjane Satrapi

I'm a very individualistic person. That is why I don't belong to any political party or anything. I really believe in justice and freedom.

~Marjane Satrapi

I don't consider myself as a feminist but more a humanist.

~Marjane Satrapi

I think with pictures; I'm a very lousy writer. If I write without pictures, I become this pathetic chick sitting somewhere trying to be interesting.

~Marjane Satrapi

I'm very open and never write what I'm going to say. Speeches bore everybody else. I have to freestyle. Every time, from one program to another, everything changes and I improvise.

~Marjane Satrapi

I think that all stories - if you make movies about zombies and aliens - it has always to do with your personal story. If not directly, it is about your fears, your obsessions, things like that.

~Marjane Satrapi

I never wanted to make a graphic novel. As soon as you become a 'writer,' you have to be intelligent all the time... I like the fact that I have the right once in a while to say silly things.

~Marjane Satrapi

I don't like 'graphic novel.' It's a word that publishers created for the bourgeois to read comics without feeling bad. Comics is just a way of narrating - it's just a media type.

~Marjane Satrapi

Life is complex. You don't have any person who is nice from the beginning until the end. You don't always have the notion of redemption. The bad people don't always pay.

~Marjane Satrapi

I don't want to quit smoking. I am convinced that if I quit smoking, the world would go to hell.

~Marjane Satrapi

I wasn't made to take orders. My grandmother used to tell me: 'Laws are for idiots.' She was right.

~Marjane Satrapi

Teacher: What do you want to be when you grow up? Marji: I'll be a prophet.

~Marjane Satrapi

We found ourselves veiled and separated from our friends.

~Marjane Satrapi

To speak behind others' backs is the ventilator of the heart.

~Marjane Satrapi

The way that you remember your life, it's never linear. You have flashes of different moments of your life, and the flashes aren't equal; they have different styles.

~Marjane Satrapi

'The Jungle Book.' It's one of the best animated films ever. I saw it when I was small at a cinema in Tehran.

~Marjane Satrapi

I'm not a very good financing person. I don't even know how much money I have in my bank account. I never have opened one single envelope from the bank - they freak me out.

~Marjane Satrapi

The information I have about Iran is second hand.

~Marjane Satrapi

Revolutions just spread blood. Evolution - this is something that

changes in the long term.

~Marjane Satrapi

It's cinematographic to smoke. Imagine Lauren Bacall without a cigarette.

~Marjane Satrapi

There are things that I love in Iranian cinema and things that I don't. In Iranian cinema, you have to use metaphor because you are living under a dictatorship.

~Marjane Satrapi

I took three years of karate because of Bruce Lee, you know. I was a green belt.

~Marjane Satrapi

I had so many professions before. I didn't want to do this particularly. It just happened.

~Marjane Satrapi

I don't watch many comic-book movies. But I loved 'Sin City.'

~Marjane Satrapi

A real love story has to finish bad. That is what I think.

~Marjane Satrapi

I'm not a politician. I don't know how to solve the problems of the world. But as an artist, I have one duty: to ask questions.

~Marjane Satrapi

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