

Mark Doty

Quotes

*Thinking, Grief, Heart, Moving, Animal, Horse, Mean, Knowing, Long, World,
Ties, Looks, Healing, Gateways, Loss, Fog, Would Be, Art, Disaster, Play*

Love, I think, is a gateway to the world, not an escape from it.

~Mark Doty

Even sad stories are company. And perhaps that's why you might read such a chronicle, to look into a companionable darkness that isn't yours.

~Mark Doty

No such thing, the queen said, as too many sequins.

~Mark Doty

We long to connect; we fear that if we do, our freedom and individuality will disappear.

~Mark Doty

One ambition of poetry, certainly, is to create a reverberant silence in its wake, one that means more or differently than the silence that preceded the poem.

~Mark Doty

The World Will Break Your Heart. Grief might be, in some ways, the long aftermath of love, the internal work of knowing, holding, more fully valuing what we have lost.

~Mark Doty

What did you think, that joy / was some slight thing?

~Mark Doty

There are those fortunate hours when the world consents to be made into a poem.

~Mark Doty

We love disasters that have nothing to do with us

~Mark Doty

Because the golden egg gleamed in my basket once, though my childhood became an immense sheet of darkening water I was Noah, and I was his ark, and there were two of every animal inside me

~Mark Doty

To choose to live with a dog is to agree to participate in a long process of interpretation, a mutual agreement though the human being holds most of the cards.

~Mark Doty

Into the paradise of euphony, the good poet must introduce hell. Broken paradises are the only kind worth reading.

~Mark Doty

It's freeing, to think that there's always an aspect of us outside the grasp of speech, the common stuff of language.

~Mark Doty

Poetry is an investigation, not an expression, of what you know.

~Mark Doty

And then we ease him out of that worn-out body with a kiss, and he's gone like a whisper, the easiest breath.

~Mark Doty

... the attempt to render visual intricacy makes words feel unwieldy, like sacks of meaning that must be lugged into place, dragged here and there, then still don't feel accurate.

~Mark Doty

Desire can make anything into a god.

~Mark Doty

All my life I've lived with a future which constantly diminishes but never

vanishes.

~Mark Doty

We learn to treasure words that people call us; we learn to live by words that hurt. We cannot toss them aside, so in time they become our dignity.

~Mark Doty

...in the face of all dangers, in what may seem a godless region, we move forward through the agencies of love and art.

~Mark Doty

What is healing, but a shift in perspectives?

~Mark Doty

I want what everybody wants, that's how I know I'm still breathing.

~Mark Doty

Poetry is ... the physical enactment of a process of knowing by means of language.

~Mark Doty

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