

# Mark Helprin

## Quotes

*Beautiful, World, People, Real, Book, Thinking, Lakes, Joy, Country, War, Cities, Running, Writing, Stars, Fighting, Horse, Long, Years, Government, Soul*

He moved like a dancer, which is not surprising; a horse is a beautiful animal, but it is perhaps most remarkable because it moves as if it always hears music.

~Mark Helprin

Words were all he knew; they possessed and overwhelmed him, as if they were a thousand white cats with whom he shared a one-room apartment.

~Mark Helprin

Well-timed silence is the most commanding expression.

~Mark Helprin

One is attracted to beauty. Beauty is the coordination of things, in such a way, that it is what attracts you. It's almost self-defining.

~Mark Helprin

The shelf was filled with books that were hard to read, that could devastate and remake one's soul, and that, when they were finished, had a kick like a mule.

~Mark Helprin

They gave themselves up to the stars the way swimmers can surrender to the waves, and the stars took them without resistance.

~Mark Helprin

And if you were a spirit, and time did not bind you, and patience and love were all you knew, then there you would wait for someone to return, and the story to unfold.

~Mark Helprin

Marxists are people whose insides are torn up day after day because they want to rule the world and no one will even publish their letter to the editor.

~Mark Helprin

If it weren't for music, I would think that love is mortal.

~Mark Helprin

And how does God speak to you?" "In the language of everything that is beautiful.

~Mark Helprin

And they'll vote for me because I'm the best liar, because I do it honestly, with a certain finesse. They know that lies and truth are very close, and that something beautiful rests between.

~Mark Helprin

A tranquil city of good laws, fine architecture, and clean streets is like a classroom of obedient dullards, or a field of gelded bulls - whereas a city of anarchy is a city of promise.

~Mark Helprin

There is justice in the world, Peter Lake, but it cannot be had without mystery.

~Mark Helprin

When faced with something I fear, I tend to eat spaghetti.

~Mark Helprin

The best way to meet a woman is in an emergency situation - if you're in a shipwreck, or you find yourself behind enemy lines, or in a flood.

~Mark Helprin

Quite possibly there's nothing as fine as a big freight train starting across country in early summer, Hardesty thought. That's when you learn that the tragedy of plants is that they have roots.

~Mark Helprin

I'm not afraid," Rafi said. "Why not?" "If I die tomorrow it will have been useless to have been afraid today.

~Mark Helprin

To be mad is to feel with excruciating intensity the sadness and joy of a time which has not arrived or has already been.

~Mark Helprin

The human race is intoxicated with narrow victories, for life is a string of them like pearls that hit the floor when the rope breaks, and roll away in perfection and anarchy.

~Mark Helprin

Of course, you would have to be insane to hope your child grows up to be a playwright or poet. Given the odds, you would have to be quite cavalier about your children's future.

~Mark Helprin

...I returned to walking up the mountain, and there, in the dim asexual beauty of reddening dawns and skies that firmed to blue, I discovered my real and appropriate strengths.

~Mark Helprin

He felt as if he were paying for the privilege of music with portions of his life and body. But it was well worth it.

~Mark Helprin

I have been fighting over commas all my life.

~Mark Helprin

He could say nothing. He had no right to be there, he had already been profoundly changed, he was no good at small talk, she was half naked, it was dawn and he loved her.

~Mark Helprin

One thing you will discover is that life is based less than you think on what you've learned and much more than you think on what you have inside you from the beginning." *Memoir From Antproof Case*

~Mark Helprin

For what can be imagined more beautiful than the sight of a perfectly just city rejoicing in justice alone.

~Mark Helprin

In daily life language is important, if not in itself, then as a symptom.

~Mark Helprin

Really the best way to learn about something is simply to read it and not make a scientific theory of interpretation.

~Mark Helprin

Whatever I do I've always done not because I want something but to compensate for a loss, to bring about a balance, to create amends, to make things right.

~Mark Helprin

They're not just dreams. Not anymore, I dream more than I wake now, and, at times, I have crossed over. Can't you see? I've been there.

~Mark Helprin

...this marvelous graceful thing, this joy of physics, this perfect balance between rebellion and obedience, is God's own signature on earth.

~Mark Helprin

The treasures of the earth were movement, courage, laughter and love.

~Mark Helprin

There's something about rushing water that I can watch for hours and

feel as if I need to do nothing more. It's alive in a way that's greater than any description of it.

~Mark Helprin

I saw how greatly he suffered the requirement of being clever. It separated him from his soul, and it didn't get him anything other than a living

~Mark Helprin

Not surprisingly, he began to sing, and because no one in the world could hear him, and he sang without inhibition, he sang well.

~Mark Helprin

The horse could not do without Manhattan. It drew him like a magnet, like a vacuum, like oats, or a mare, or an open, never-ending, tree-lined road.

~Mark Helprin

Justice came from a fight amid complexities, and required all the virtues in the world merely to be perceived.

~Mark Helprin

Perhaps he was a fool, but he thought that if a work were truly great you would only have to read it once and you would be stolen from yourself, desperately moved, changed forever.

~Mark Helprin

their powerlessness, innocence, and imagination fused to enable them to turn time inside out, travel on the wind, and enter the souls of animals.

~Mark Helprin

All great discoveries...are products as much of doubt as of certainty, and the two in opposition clear the air for marvelous accidents.

~Mark Helprin

I've never had a cup of coffee in my life. I can't even remain in the same room with coffee.

~Mark Helprin

I'm sort of murdered for selling books. The idea is, if you make money your work can't be literary.

~Mark Helprin

As the clockwork of the millennia moved a notch in front of their eyes, it had taken their thoughts from small things and reminded them of how vulnerable they were to time.

~Mark Helprin

As it somehow always manages before the winter solstice, but never after, the early darkness was cheerful and promising, even for those who had nothing.

~Mark Helprin

When you die, you know, you hear the insistent pounding that defines all things, whether of matter or energy, since there is nothing in the universe, really, but proportion.

~Mark Helprin

Accident is as much a part of fiction as anything else, symbolic of the grace that, along with will, conspires to put words on the page.

~Mark Helprin

It's very painful to be in debt. I'm the kind of person who would rather almost die than go into debt.

~Mark Helprin

She knew words no one had ever heard of, and she used words every

day that had been mainly dead or sleeping for hundreds of years.

~Mark Helprin

Truth is no rounder than a horse's eye.

~Mark Helprin

Writing is still my main career, but I would love, for instance, to serve in the New York State Assembly.

~Mark Helprin

...to be paid for one's joy is to steal.

~Mark Helprin

If nothing is random, and everything is predetermined, how can there be free will? The answer to that is simple. Nothing is predetermined; it is determined, or was determined, or will be determined.

~Mark Helprin

La guerre, la guerre, everything la guerre. That's how I grew up. So for me, it's real. It's not something in the past.

~Mark Helprin

There's an expression in Yiddish, which is "der gelernte naar" - a "learned fool." You can know a great deal, you can have a Ph.D., and you can still be a total idiot.

~Mark Helprin

It's a defining difference, curiosity. I've never known a stupid person who was curious, or a curious person who was stupid.

~Mark Helprin

A good river is nature's life work in song.

~Mark Helprin

I've imagined great victories, and I've imagined great races. The races are better.

~Mark Helprin

Every sovereign country has the right to control its borders, and should. The idea that anyone would sneak over our borders without proper documentation to me is absolutely abhorrent.

~Mark Helprin

Because there were all kinds of hell - some were black and dirty, and some were silvery and high.

~Mark Helprin

Heavy blizzards start as a gentle and persistent snow.

~Mark Helprin

Particularly as a Jew, I don't like missionary work. I've had it focused on me, and I don't like it. Let people be what they want to be.

~Mark Helprin

People's position on immigration, once they get "sophisticated," and they rise to the higher levels of commentary or government, it's usually determined solely by economics. And not by anything else.

~Mark Helprin

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