

# Mary Doria Russell

## Quotes

*Fall, Dream, Men, Clever, Love, Children, Years, Believe, Rain, Dog, Yield,  
Grace, Two, War, Long, Foul Language, Writing, Dreamer, Hurt, Pieces*

The dachshund is a perfectly engineered dog. It is precisely long enough for a single standard stroke of the back, but you aren't paying for any superfluous leg.

~Mary Doria Russell

How can you hear your soul if everyone is talking?

~Mary Doria Russell

When it comes down to it, I don't have much in the way of advice to offer you, but here it is: Read to children. Vote. And never buy anything from a man who's selling fear.

~Mary Doria Russell

Wisdom begins when you discover the difference between "That doesn't make sense" and "I don't understand."

~Mary Doria Russell

God save us from idealists! They dream of a world without injustice, and what crime won't they commit to get it! I swear, Mirella, I'll settle for a world with good manners.

~Mary Doria Russell

The sparrow still falls.

~Mary Doria Russell

If we keep demanding that God yield up His answers, perhaps some day we will understand them. And then we will be something more than clever apes, and we shall dance with God.

~Mary Doria Russell

No matter how dark the tapestry God weaves for us, there's always a thread of grace.

~Mary Doria Russell

The trouble with illusions is that you aren't aware you have any until they are taken away from you.

~Mary Doria Russell

Rain falls on everyone, lightning strikes some. What cannot be changed is best forgotten. God made the world, and He saw that it was good. Not fair. Not happy. Not perfect. Good.

~Mary Doria Russell

Love is a debt, she thought. When the bill comes, you pay in grief.

~Mary Doria Russell

God's got a lot of explaining to do. Of course, God never explains. When life breaks your heart, you're just supposed to pick up the pieces and start all over, I guess.

~Mary Doria Russell

The characters I'm most emotionally involved with are like friends you leave behind when you move away. You don't see them regularly anymore, but you still love them and keep in touch.

~Mary Doria Russell

I do what I do without hope of reward or fear of punishment. I do not require Heaven or Hell to bribe or scare me into acting decently.

~Mary Doria Russell

I begin with songs. They provide a sort of skeleton grammar for me to flesh out. Songs of longing for future tense, songs of regret for past tense, and songs of love for present tense.

~Mary Doria Russell

Watching him with one eye, she wondered if men ever figured out that they were more appealing when they were pursuing their own work than when they were pursuing a woman.

~Mary Doria Russell

Tradition was safety; change was danger.

~Mary Doria Russell

Each generation of adolescents has at least two historical events that color its responses to whatever happens next.

~Mary Doria Russell

Instead of taking a year off, I started Dreamers of the Day exactly 36 hours after I sent the manuscript for A Thread of Grace to the publisher!

~Mary Doria Russell

In my worldview, there are filers, and there are pilers. Filers think alphabetically. Pilers think geologically.

~Mary Doria Russell

Cleveland is really good about recognizing its artists because of the Arts Council.

~Mary Doria Russell

I had a doctorate in biological anthropology. I got a post-doc at CWRU dental school in 1983 teaching gross anatomy.

~Mary Doria Russell

The sign of a good decision is the multiplicity of reasons for it.

~Mary Doria Russell

Indulge me, John. Cynicism and foul language are the only vices I'm presently capable of. Everything else takes energy or money.

~Mary Doria Russell

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