People, Song, Believe, Want, Thinking, Giving, Real, Children, Trying, Mistake, Journey, Pain, Hurt, Men, School, Way, Years, Strong, Identity, Needs

I know who I am. I am not perfect. I'm not the most beautiful woman in the world. But I'm one of them.

~Mary J. Blige

I listen to gospel music.

~Mary J. Blige

I don't know. Only God knows where the story ends for me, but I know where the story begins. It's up to us to choose, whether we win or lose and I choose to win.

~Mary J. Blige

I have to have lemon and honey. I have to have apple cider vinegar, Braggs. And I have to have either Red Vines or Twizzlers. These things, you know, are the things that help my vocal performance.

~Mary J. Blige

There's so many things that life is, and no matter how many breakthroughs, trials will exist and we're going to get through it. Just be strong.

~Mary J. Blige

If you're looking for inner peace from the outside world, you're not going to get that. The inner peace starts with looking at you from the inside.

~Mary J. Blige

Negative words are powerful boomerangs so be careful what you say about people and yourself.

~Mary J. Blige

When you come from so many damaged places you don't ever want to spiral back there, so you gotta continue to check yourself.

Believe in yourself when nobody else does.

~Mary J. Blige

When life is real, it's not going to be smooth.

~Mary J. Blige

God comes first - if I don't love him, I can't love anybody, and if I can't love me I can't love nobody.

~Mary J. Blige

When you tell your truth, you are coming from a real place, so you are automatically a leader.

~Mary J. Blige

You can hate me. You can go out there and say anything you want about me, But you will love me later because I told you the truth.

~Mary J. Blige

I wish I had known that education is the key. That knowledge is power. Now I pick up books and watch educational shows with my husband. I'm seeing how knowledge can elevate you.

~Mary J. Blige

I'm on my way to a place where I'd never dreamed I'd be, and that's perfection.

~Mary J. Blige

I blame my mother for nothing, but forgive her for everything.

~Mary J. Blige

My journey continues, because I've, you know, conquered a lot. And I know how to conquer the rest.

It hurts when you have to smile and you don't want to smile, but the best thing to do is to smile.

~Mary J. Blige

In your life there's peaks and valleys and sometimes we regress, and we don't even know we regress. You just have to learn how to accept all of your mistakes and learn to love yourself again.

~Mary J. Blige

For the first time in my life, I'm proud of myself

~Mary J. Blige

I like hanging out with me, and I've accepted everything about me good, bad whatever it is. That's why I'm able to, that's why no one can tell me anything negative about myself.

~Mary J. Blige

I believe there are certain things that God uses to get us out of a bad situation, and I believe music was one of the things he used for me.

~Mary J. Blige

My responsibility to God is to live. That's the gift he gave me. What I do with it is up to me.

~Mary J. Blige

Really, every woman is an example to me, because as women we go through so much pain. We have to live this perfect life when we are messed up inside. We all go through trials and tribulations.

~Mary J. Blige

I don't think I'll do foster care or adopt, to be quite honest.

~Mary J. Blige

You demand respect and you'll get it. First of all, you give respect.

~Mary J. Blige

I don't want no drama in my life, even though we have a little bit, but no more letting people control you. That's drama, because then you become something that you're not.

~Mary J. Blige

It's up to us to choose whether we win or lose...and I choose to win.

~Mary J. Blige

My God is a God who wants me to have things. He wants me to bling. He wants me to be the hottest thing on the block.

~Mary J. Blige

It's that first step-getting out the door-that's the toughest. If you can do that, you've already won.

~Mary J. Blige

It's OK showing yourself some love.

~Mary J. Blige

The music business is not a good place for people who don't know things.

~Mary J. Blige

We are all spirits. We get depressed. But music makes you want to live. I know my music has saved my life.

~Mary J. Blige

I'm searching for a real love.

~Mary J. Blige

You know a lot, but you don't know everything.

You can look at my palm and see the storm coming. Read the book of my life and see I've overcome it.

~Mary J. Blige

Everything is scary if you look at it. So you just got to live.

~Mary J. Blige

I mean, I know my heart is not clean, and your heart is not clean, and none of our urban hearts are clean. But you can be washed again.

~Mary J. Blige

Love is wonderful, amazing, and the best thing that can happen to us.

~Mary J. Blige

I can tell you I didn't feel good when I could not articulate properly.

Getting my GED was important and I want other women to feel that.

~Mary J. Blige

Growing up, I was the preferred hairstylist for all of my friends.

~Mary J. Blige

That's the message I want to give to every up-and-coming artist: Do everything that is going to help you later. If you clone somebody else, that's all they're gonna keep wanting from you.

~Mary J. Blige

People in my neighborhood inspired me to sing. Believe in your ability no matter what, but be realistic with yourself and your ability.

~Mary J. Blige

I wish I had an extra day with my mom sometimes. Or another hour in the day with my family, husband and children.

I like French fries; I like mashed. I love potatoes.

~Mary J. Blige

You have to create different things, either through lighting or changing the format of the songs and how you're going to sing them, and even sometimes props.

~Mary J. Blige

I didn't never have to go to a therapist. I just always put it in a song and you heard me.

~Mary J. Blige

There's not enough time to be disrespecting... Life is too short.

~Mary J. Blige

God loves me and sent his son to die for me so I have to live to please him because he saved me when everyone abandoned me.

~Mary J. Blige

You can't get around pain and opposition, but you can try to be joyful in the trial, and thank yourself for the trial, and thank God for the strength to get through it.

~Mary J. Blige

I believe that anything man himself can do for me, God can do for me in a greater way. I decided to pray and to seek God on my own. I just stayed in The Word. And it worked.

~Mary J. Blige

I still get nervous about singing. I drink tea with honey and lemon before every concert. And I need to have scented candles in all of my hotel rooms.

'My Life' is soft, with notes of pear and gardenia, but still bold, with a woody base.

~Mary J. Blige

I like to do interior design, I love to quilt, I love to see different colors together, and I love to match things up.

~Mary J. Blige

I barely have time for my own children. To adopt more children and not have time for them, that would be poor parenting on my part.

~Mary J. Blige

You either learn from your experiences or go back and do the same thing, and I learned from my experiences.

~Mary J. Blige

There are people out there who want to provoke me and bring back the old Mary but I'm not giving them the satisfaction.

~Mary J. Blige

Once you climb to another level, you have to figure out how to sustain it.

~Mary J. Blige

Working in the studio is a more personal experience whereas on stage in front of a billion people, its more exciting performing live.

~Mary J. Blige

If you're here right now in your life, your journey continues and you've lived to tell the story.

~Mary J. Blige

It's sad that a lot of identities are lost and a lot of careers are lost because there's sort of a clone thing going on.

~Mary J. Blige

If we didn't have understanding of our journey, we wouldn't be able to go on. We'd be stuck, like, 'Why me?'

~Mary J. Blige

I grew up watching MTV, when Journey was huge, when Pat Benatar had 'Love Is a Battlefield,' and my friends and I used to cut school to watch this woman in the video. We loved Pat Benatar.

~Mary J. Blige

Then my life crashed and burned down: trials, men, drama, no self-love, no identity. A little identity, but not a lot of love for myself, my life.

~Mary J. Blige

I felt ashamed about everything. Me dropping out of high school, me not, you know, just not being beautiful enough. I just didn't feel like I was smart enough or beautiful enough, you know, for years.

~Mary J. Blige

The younger Mary J. Blige, I would call her, she was very unaware, ignorant.

~Mary J. Blige

I never do any album to beat it. I do it to extend it.

~Mary J. Blige

I wouldn't adopt, but what I will do is give my time and go and try to be there for people.

~Mary J. Blige

I'm a singer who thinks like a rapper.

I've been a tomboy my whole life. But then you get older, you get married, you soften up.

~Mary J. Blige

It was only for two years, and I jumped from family to family. It's very scary.

~Mary J. Blige

I like what I see when I'm looking at me when I'm walking past the mirror.

~Mary J. Blige

Larry David makes me laugh.

~Mary J. Blige

Sometimes I frown and I don't realise it.

~Mary J. Blige

It hurts a lot when you cannot really comprehend what a person is saying in a meeting, or you don't even understand what you're reading in your contract.

~Mary J. Blige

By the time I was a teenager, when I went outside the house, it was about hip-hop all the time. Nothing but hip-hop, block parties.

~Mary J. Blige

I don't know what kind of God the rest of y'all are serving, but the God I serve says, 'Mary, you need to be the hottest thing this year, and I'm gonna make sure you're doing that.'

~Mary J. Blige

I can't just make a song people can dance in a club to... it still has to be real.

~Mary J. Blige

I don't have any health problems, but to keep your health improves your quality of life.

~Mary J. Blige

The music business is really, really small. The real music is becoming almost extinct, if you don't stay true to who you are.

~Mary J. Blige

Don't go a full day or night without washing your face. You have to get all the dirt and makeup out of your pores.

~Mary J. Blige

It's not just songs and glamour. It's sweat, blood, broken toes, and mistakes... It's life.

~Mary J. Blige

I decided to start my own label because so many people with talent come to me wanting to know how they can get in the music business.

~Mary J. Blige

I'm hoping that my entrepreneurial side will have me at a place where I don't have to do anything. That's what I'm striving for.

~Mary J. Blige

I'm a child of God. God is my mommy, my daddy. That's the only thing that'll keep my head up. If I don't remember who I am in him, I'm done.

~Mary J. Blige

The only person that I'm really feeling - because she has an identity of her own, even though she has listened to Mary J. Blige - is Jill Scott.

I do consider myself part of black history.

~Mary J. Blige

It's challenging to find an identity as a young person if you don't have the sustenance of love, because you're being shipped around.

~Mary J. Blige

In the studio you can really concentrate on performing the song where as on stage you also have to worry about connecting with so many people, they're definitely different.

~Mary J. Blige

I remember a time when all my fans were crying and sad and going through hell. Now, we're trying to uplift each other and accept ourselves for who we are, even if nobody else does.

~Mary J. Blige

I've been praying to God to show me how to forgive myself. Because... maybe... that's the thing I've been searching for.

~Mary J. Blige

Cause I'm no better than you, you, or you. And I can't get on no throne and preach, 'cause I'm not God.

~Mary J. Blige

I'm striving toward this acting thing. I'm definitely gonna work hard on that, whatever comes my way, I'm gonna work hard on it.

~Mary J. Blige

Don't give up, be positive and if you know someone who knows someone at a record company don't stop beating down their door till you get heard. Don't ever say it'll never happen or it'll never happen.

I've learned so much from all my mistakes. I just wish I had gotten my education.

~Mary J. Blige

I was inspired to create 'My Life' so I could finally share a personal part of my life beyond my music.

~Mary J. Blige

When I was a child I didn't care about getting an education, and I didn't finish high school.

~Mary J. Blige

When I was a kid, I needed to sing because it makes me feel good about myself. It makes me feel good, period.

~Mary J. Blige

As a kid, I dreamed about being onstage.

~Mary J. Blige

We are all just a work in progress.

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