

Mary Karr Quotes

*Writing, Book, Thinking, People, Years, Family, World, Children, Air, Memories,
Kids, Heart, Mother, Believe, Fighting, Emotional, Inspirational, Hands, Prayer,
Smart*

A dysfunctional family is any family with more than one person in it.

~Mary Karr

Sure the world breeds monsters, but kindness grows just as wild.

~Mary Karr

Even the best of us are at least part-time bastards.

~Mary Karr

Poetry is for me Eucharistic. You take someone else's suffering into your body, their passion comes into your body, and in doing that you commune, you take communion, you make a community with others.

~Mary Karr

Such a small, pure object a poem could be, made of nothing but air a tiny string of letters, maybe small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. But it could blow everybody's head off.

~Mary Karr

Ten years, she's dead, and I still find myself some mornings reaching for the phone to call her. She could no more be gone than gravity or the moon.

~Mary Karr

Reading is socially accepted disassociation. You flip a switch and you're not there anymore. It's better than heroin. More effective and cheaper and legal.

~Mary Karr

The words and sentences you take into your body from books are no less sacred and healing than communion. Surely at least one such person lives in your zip code.

~Mary Karr

In my godless household, poems were the closest we came to sacred speech -- the only prayers said.

~Mary Karr

I find a great deal of comfort and care in my faith and prayer. I'd sooner do without air than prayer.

~Mary Karr

When I got sober, I thought giving up was saying goodbye to all the fun and all the sparkle, and it turned out to be just the opposite. That's when the sparkle started for me.

~Mary Karr

I'm doomed to act like myself, even when it's inconvenient!

~Mary Karr

I believe in God, but even if you don't, you can believe in a self, the person who is innately who you are. Once you fully become that person, then everything you do will be blessed.

~Mary Karr

How much smaller the large places are once we're grown up, when we have car keys and credit cards.

~Mary Karr

I don't think I look like the pope's favorite Catholic - at least not under close scrutiny.

~Mary Karr

For me, everything's too much and nothing's enough.

~Mary Karr

I get so lonely sometimes, I could put a box on my head and mail myself to a stranger.

~Mary Karr

But I'm not ready to stop listening to the screwed-up inner voice that's been ordering me around for a lifetime. My head thinks it can kill me... and go on living without me.

~Mary Karr

Memoir is not an act of history but an act of memory, which is innately corrupt.

~Mary Karr

There are women succeeding beyond their wildest dreams because of their sobriety.

~Mary Karr

I always say that a poet loves the world, and the prose writer needs to create an alternative world.

~Mary Karr

Love is the only passion which includes in its dreams the happiness of someone else.

~Mary Karr

A pool game mixes ritual with geometry.

~Mary Karr

When people suffer, their relationships usually suffer as well. Period. And we all suffer because, as the Buddha says, that's the nature of being human and wanting stuff we don't always get.

~Mary Karr

I was 40 years old before I became an overnight success, and I'd been publishing for 20 years.

~Mary Karr

Your heart, Mary Karr, he'd say. His pen touched my sternum, and it felt for all the world like the point of a dull spear as he said, Your heart knows what your head don't. Or won't.

~Mary Karr

Be willing to be a child and be the Lilliputian in the world of Gulliver.

~Mary Karr

I think we fall in love and become adults and become citizens in a way by writing stories about ourselves.

~Mary Karr

The failures of other genres to provide an emotional connection with some of their characters and narratives gives memoir a toehold.

~Mary Karr

The truth is when I went to graduate school I would've said I was among the least talented of the students, I was certainly the least smart, or less educated. But I worked very hard.

~Mary Karr

Im always terrified when Im writing.

~Mary Karr

The emotional stakes a memoirist bets with could not be higher, and it's physically enervating. I nap on a daily basis like a cross-country trucker.

~Mary Karr

When you do try to picture the boys who do ask you out, they're absolutely featureless, like old carvings eroded by centuries of rain and wind.

~Mary Karr

He never gave up on me, I only stopped being matriculated.

~Mary Karr

I get about five memoirs per week in my mailbox, and few of them inspire anything but a desire to pick up the channel changer.

~Mary Karr

I tell people not to write too soon about their lives. Writing about yourself too young is loaded with psychological complexities.

~Mary Karr

I've never contended that I had a really horrible life.

~Mary Karr

As a memoirist, I strive for veracity.

~Mary Karr

Age about 30, I stopped looking up my books in bookstores. Paying attention to the marketplace isn't a healthy thing for me.

~Mary Karr

I don't have a copy of my books, and the degree to which I never read them is profound. I never look.

~Mary Karr

Nobody sounds good writing about your divorce, let's face it.

~Mary Karr

I do have a really good memory. I mean, like, I can remember all the phone numbers of everybody on the street I grew up on.

~Mary Karr

I'm not nearly smart enough or imaginative enough to tackle the novel form. Never happen.

~Mary Karr

Having a great dad probably permitted me to pal around with guys in a way that some women don't.

~Mary Karr

Those are only rumors of suffering. Real suffering has a face and a smell. It lasts in the most intense form no matter what you drape over it. And it knows your name.

~Mary Karr

If you lie to your husband - even about something so banal as how much you drink - each lie is a brick in a wall going up between you, and when he tells you he loves you, it's deflected away.

~Mary Karr

Ninety percent of what's wrong with you could be cured with a hot bath, says God from the bowels of the subway. but we want magic, to win the lottery we never bought a ticket for.

~Mary Karr

It turned out to be impossible for me to 'run away' in the sense other American teenagers did. Any movement at all was taken for progress in my family.

~Mary Karr

The shrieking fight or the out-of-character insult endures forever, while the daily sweetness dissolves like sugar in water.

~Mary Karr

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