

Mary MacLane

Quotes

*World, Genius, Book, Writing, May, Self, Girl, Want, Men, Two, Feelings, Real,
Fame, Years, Animal, Littles, People, Taken, Doe, Speech*

When I was three years old I was taken with my family to a little town in Western Minnesota, where I lived a more or less vapid and ordinary life until I was ten.

~Mary MacLane

I do not see any beauty in self-restraint.

~Mary MacLane

The world is like a little marsh filled with mint and white hawthorn.

~Mary MacLane

Fame is indeed beautiful and benign and gentle and satisfying, but happiness is something at once tender and brilliant beyond all things.

~Mary MacLane

Genius of a kind has always been with me; an empty heart that has taken on a certain wooden quality; an excellent, strong woman's body and a pitiably starved soul.

~Mary MacLane

A genius who does not know that he is a genius is no genius.

~Mary MacLane

I am lithe, but fragile from constant involuntary self-analysis.

~Mary MacLane

One must always say things that aim to interest, because in the world one must after all pay for one's keep.

~Mary MacLane

I do not sing nor play, but I adore music, particularly Chopin. I like him because I cannot understand him.

~Mary MacLane

I read of the Kalamazoo girl who killed herself after reading the book. I am not at all surprised. She lived in Kalamazoo, for one thing, and then she read the book.

~Mary MacLane

There is really no right and wrong. I recognize no right and wrong.

~Mary MacLane

May I never, I say, become that abnormal, merciless animal, that deformed monstrosity - a virtuous woman.

~Mary MacLane

However great one's gift of language may be, there is always something that one cannot tell.

~Mary MacLane

People say of me, 'She's peculiar.' They do not understand me. If they did they would say so oftener and with emphasis.

~Mary MacLane

I was born to be alone, and I always shall be but now I want to be.

~Mary MacLane

I have read of women who have been strongly, grandly brave. Sometimes I have dreamed that I might be brave. The possibilities of this life are magnificent.

~Mary MacLane

The highest thing one can do in literature is to succeed in saying that thing which one meant to say. There is nothing better than that - to make the world see your thoughts as you see them.

~Mary MacLane

I want to live quietly.

~Mary MacLane

I write every day. Writing is a necessity - like eating.

~Mary MacLane

Well, if I am not vulgar, neither is my book. I wrote myself. Suggestiveness is always vulgar. But truth never. My book is not even remotely suggestive. I call things by their names. That is all.

~Mary MacLane

Are there many things in this cool-hearted world so utterly exquisite as the pure love of one woman for another woman?

~Mary MacLane

The art of Good Eating has two essential points: one must eat only when one is hungry, and one must take small bites.

~Mary MacLane

Genius, apart from natural sensitiveness, is prone equally to unreasoning joy and to bitterest morbidness.

~Mary MacLane

But in my life, in my personality, there is an essence of falseness and insincerity. A thin, fine vapor of fraud hangs always over me and dampens and injures some things in me that I value.

~Mary MacLane

Some day the Devil will come to me and say: 'Come with me.' And I will answer: 'Yes.'

~Mary MacLane

Do you think a man is the only creature with whom one may fall in love?

~Mary MacLane

Of poets I put Virgil first - he was greatest.

~Mary MacLane

One's thoughts are one's most crucial adventures. Seriously and strongly and intently to contemplate doing murder is everyway more exciting, more romantic, more profoundly tragic than the murder done.

~Mary MacLane

I consider calmly the question of how much evil I should need to kill off my finer feelings.

~Mary MacLane

I am a genius. Then it amused me to keep saying so, but now it does not. I expected to be happy sometime. Now I know I shall never be.

~Mary MacLane

Some people say that beauty is a curse. It may be true, but I'm sure I should not have at all minded being cursed a little.

~Mary MacLane

When I wrote my book I wanted to love someone. I wanted to be in love. Now I know that I shall never be in love - and I no longer wish to be.

~Mary MacLane

It is with pain that I read of the dire effects of my book upon the minds of young girls.

~Mary MacLane

I have never read a line of Walt Whitman.

~Mary MacLane

I want fame more than I can tell. But more than I want fame I want happiness.

~Mary MacLane

I would rather be a fairly happy wife and mother.

~Mary MacLane

I've never made plans for more than a day ahead.

~Mary MacLane

Let me but make a beginning, let me but strike the world in a vulnerable spot, and I can take it by storm.

~Mary MacLane

at this point I meet Me face to face. I am Mary MacLane: of no importance to the wide bright world and dearly and damnably important to Me.

~Mary MacLane

I began to be a woman at twelve, or more properly, a genius.

~Mary MacLane

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