

# Meryl Streep Quotes

*Thinking, People, Men, Children, Acting, Character, Actors, Needs, School, Girl,  
Mother, Years, Husband, Heart, Inspirational, Fashion, Believe, Giving, Way,  
Decision*

The formula of happiness and success is just, being actually yourself, in the most vivid possible way you can.

~Meryl Streep

Everything that truly makes us happy is quite simple - love, sex and food!

~Meryl Streep

The great gift of human beings is that we have the power of empathy.

~Meryl Streep

What makes you different or weird, that's your strength.

~Meryl Streep

The minute you start caring about what other people think, is the minute you stop being yourself.

~Meryl Streep

It's bizarre that the produce manager is more important to my children's health than the pediatrician.

~Meryl Streep

It's amazing what you can get if you quietly, clearly and authoritatively demand it.

~Meryl Streep

You have to embrace getting older. Life is precious, and when you've lost a lot of people, you realize each day is a gift.

~Meryl Streep

I think the best role models for women are people who are fruitfully and confidently themselves, who bring light into the world.

~Meryl Streep

Everything we say signifies; everything counts, that we put out into the world. It impacts on kids, it impacts on the zeitgeist of the time.

~Meryl Streep

That is the simple secret. Always take your heart to work.

~Meryl Streep

As there begins to be less time ahead of you, you want to be exactly who you are, without making it easier for everyone else.

~Meryl Streep

Pretending is a very valuable life skill.

~Meryl Streep

You can't get spoiled if you do your own ironing.

~Meryl Streep

You don't have to be famous. You just have to make your mother and father proud of you.

~Meryl Streep

We need art as much as we need good works. You need it like food. You need it for inspiration to keep going on the days that your low. We need each other in that way.

~Meryl Streep

Integrate what you believe in every single area of your life. Take your heart to work and ask the most and best of everybody else, too.

~Meryl Streep

Put blinders on to those things that conspire to hold you back, especially the ones in your own head.

~Meryl Streep

I love acting, of course, but being with my husband and my children always brought me the greatest joy and happiness in life.

~Meryl Streep

Every easy choice will have its consequence tomorrow.

~Meryl Streep

You just have to keep on doing what you do. It's the lesson I get from my husband; he just says, Keep going. Start by starting.

~Meryl Streep

My advice: Don't waste so much time worrying about your skin or your weight. Develop what you do, what you put your hands on in the world.

~Meryl Streep

True freedom is understanding that we have a choice in who and what we allow to have power over us.

~Meryl Streep

The work itself is the reward, and if I choose challenging work, it'll pay me back with interest. At least I'll be interested, even if nobody else is.

~Meryl Streep

I believe in a world of opposites and that's why I avoid people with rigid and inflexible personalities.

~Meryl Streep

Being a celebrity has taught me to hide but being an actor has opened my soul.

~Meryl Streep

Motherhood has a very humanizing effect. Everything gets reduced to essentials.

~Meryl Streep

I never give any character I play less respect than I give my own life.

~Meryl Streep

All an actor has is their blind faith that they are who they say they are today, in any scene.

~Meryl Streep

I think your self emerges more clearly over time.

~Meryl Streep

Acting is not about being someone different. It's finding the similarity in what is apparently different, then finding myself in there.

~Meryl Streep

When they called my name, I had this feeling I could hear half of America going, 'Oh no. Come on... Her, again?' You know. But, whatever.

~Meryl Streep

Fear focuses the mind.

~Meryl Streep

My job is usually to express emotion as freely as possible.

~Meryl Streep

My feeling about fears is, if you voice your fears, they may come true. I'm superstitious enough to believe that.

~Meryl Streep

I need to go where people are serious about acting.

~Meryl Streep

If you make the tough decisions, people will hate you today. But they will thank you for generations.

~Meryl Streep

Some people are filled by compassion and a desire to do good, and some simply don't think anything's going to make a difference.

~Meryl Streep

I have always regarded myself as the pillar of my life.

~Meryl Streep

I think the most liberating thing I did early on was to free myself from any concern with my looks as they pertained to my work.

~Meryl Streep

What's worse than brutality that dehumanizes women? Tolerance and indifference towards it.

~Meryl Streep

I just take every day is a miracle and I'm really glad that I'm still working and that people are not sick of me, even though even I'm sick of me a little bit.

~Meryl Streep

There is some liberation in the freedom of being totally alone and really going for it.

~Meryl Streep

We are the choices we have made.

~Meryl Streep

People want what they want. Sometimes you just have to walk in defiance of it and just be yourself.

~Meryl Streep

All an actor has, I think, is their heart, really,...that's the place you go for

your inspiration. If my heart wasn't filled with them, where would I get stuff? What would I have to express?

~Meryl Streep

I'm curious about other people. That's the essence of my acting. I'm interested in what it would be like to be you.

~Meryl Streep

The thing that you have to fight the most when you lose is you feel like the biggest failure in the world.

~Meryl Streep

Having been let out of the barn once, I know I wouldn't be happy if I were home all the time.

~Meryl Streep

There's no road map on how to raise a family: it's always an enormous negotiation.

~Meryl Streep

I had this sort of idolatry for certain actors who preceded me, people who inspired me, so I'm honored to be that way for young actors.

~Meryl Streep

Everyone is interesting. Everyone has something unexpected to offer and the job of acting is to pull it out of each other.

~Meryl Streep

Pretending is not just play. Pretending is imagined possibility. Pretending, or acting, is a very valuable life skill and we do it all the time.

~Meryl Streep

All that attention to the perfect lighting, the perfect this, the perfect that,

I find terribly annoying.

~Meryl Streep

The key to every actor is deep, deep insecurity.

~Meryl Streep

Acting is my way of investigating human nature and having fun at the same time

~Meryl Streep

Obsession is an attractive thing. People who are really, really interested and good at one thing and smart are attractive, if they're men.

~Meryl Streep

I wonder which of the megaton bombs Jesus, our President's personal savior, would have personally dropped on the sleeping families of Baghdad?

~Meryl Streep

Being an actor lets me be a million different things.

~Meryl Streep

The work will stand, no matter what.

~Meryl Streep

The greatest gift given to man by God - is the ability to empathize.

~Meryl Streep

Guard your good mood.

~Meryl Streep

Instant gratification is not soon enough.

~Meryl Streep



Anyone who wants to achieve something, needs a lot of work.

~Meryl Streep

Personality is immediately apparent, from birth, and I don't think it really changes.

~Meryl Streep

Empathy is at the heart of the actor's art.

~Meryl Streep

Everyone tries to look a cookie-cutter kind of way, and actually the people who look different are the ones who get picked up.

~Meryl Streep

If I am not confident that I can portray the character perfectly on screen, I won't even try.

~Meryl Streep

Singing and acting are very similar. Singing makes you reach into your deepest feelings. Singing is an extension of everything that you do when you're acting.

~Meryl Streep

For me, clothes are kind of character; I don't follow fashion or understand trends.

~Meryl Streep

I couldn't care less about fashion. If I had taken any clothes home, they would have remained in my closet for the rest of their existence.

~Meryl Streep

I believe in imagination. I did Kramer vs Kramer before I had children. But the mother I would be was already inside me.

~Meryl Streep

On every film, the clothes are half the battle in creating the character. I have a great deal of opinion about how my people are presented. We show a great deal by what we put on our bodies.

~Meryl Streep

In other characters, it's driven by insecurity, or it's driven by fear, or - there's always a driver. And all the physical manifestations, you need your way in.

~Meryl Streep

Young people who learn the arts do better in every phase of their lives.

~Meryl Streep

I have a lot to say about the world, clearly. I can't put together a clear sentence about it all, but through the work I can say what I think.

~Meryl Streep

The interesting thing about being a mother is that everyone wants pets, but no one but me cleans the kitty litter.

~Meryl Streep

I once read that in any good marriage, one partner is the gardener and the other is the garden. We take it in turns to be either.

~Meryl Streep

I want to feel my life while I'm in it.

~Meryl Streep

Expensive clothes are a waste of money.

~Meryl Streep

Wrinkled, wrinkled little star... hope they never see the scars.

~Meryl Streep

My family really does come first. It always did and always will.

~Meryl Streep

I'm all over the place.

~Meryl Streep

How you first meet the public is how the industry sees you. You can't argue with them. That's their perception.

~Meryl Streep

I have a theory that movies operate on the level of dreams, where you dream yourself.

~Meryl Streep

This is your time and it feels normal to you, but really, there is no normal. There's only change and resistance to it and then more change.

~Meryl Streep

We all make the mistake thinking that how you look makes you more worthy of love.

~Meryl Streep

It is interesting how fashion filters down and we discover in the "Devil Wears Prada" that we're all prey to trends, even if we think we are not.

~Meryl Streep

I have a holistic need to work and to have huge ties of love in my life. I can't imagine eschewing one for the other.

~Meryl Streep

Jumpsuits for men are always so difficult when you get to that one area.

~Meryl Streep

There are wonderfully talented actresses. It's a really rich field. There isn't as rich a field of material.

~Meryl Streep

I'm older. There's some sort of seniority. As a matter of fact, the seniority ebbs as you get older.

~Meryl Streep

I don't like to be gone all weekend and at night too. Because for 20 years, I've had children who are in school.

~Meryl Streep

America doesn't reward people of my age, either in day-to-day life or for their performances.

~Meryl Streep

Show business has been really, really good to me because I can work and take a lot of time off, and I'm extremely undisciplined person.

~Meryl Streep

I didn't go to Catholic school but I had a tough teacher, a tough math teacher. I remember everything that guy taught me. I really do.

~Meryl Streep

Yeah, I did need a lot of breath [to play Margaret Thatcher]. I needed much more breath than I have, after all of my expensive drama school training. I couldn't keep up with her.

~Meryl Streep

People say, When you have children, everything changes. But maybe things are awakened that were already there.

~Meryl Streep

I have a very busy life, and not many people who have a career and

four kids go out a lot to the movies.

~Meryl Streep

I'm a pain in the ass to all of the costume designers with whom I work because I have very strong feelings about the subject.

~Meryl Streep

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