

Michael Cunningham

Quotes

*Book, Thinking, Writing, People, Morning, Moving, Want, Believe, World,
Virginia, Mean, Running, Children, Giving, Two, Secret, Heart, Years, Hero,
Night*

She could have had a life as potent and dangerous as literature itself.

~Michael Cunningham

The secret of flight is this -- you have to do it immediately, before your body realizes it is defying the laws.

~Michael Cunningham

There is a beauty in the world, though it's harsher than we expect it to be.

~Michael Cunningham

we become the stories we tell ourselves

~Michael Cunningham

I was not ladylike, nor was I manly. I was something else altogether. There were so many different ways to be beautiful.

~Michael Cunningham

Language in fiction is made up of equal parts meaning and music. The sentences should have rhythm and cadence, they should engage and delight the inner ear.

~Michael Cunningham

I suspect any serious reader has a first great book, just the way anybody has a first kiss.

~Michael Cunningham

Take me with you. I want a doomed love. I want streets at night, wind and rain, no one wondering where I am.

~Michael Cunningham

One always has a better book in one's mind than one can manage to get onto paper.

~Michael Cunningham

She is overtaken by a sensation of unbeing. There is no other word for it.

~Michael Cunningham

Venture too far for love, she tells herself, and you renounce citizenship in the country you've made for yourself.

~Michael Cunningham

You can't find peace by avoiding life.

~Michael Cunningham

You cannot find peace by avoiding life, Leonard.

~Michael Cunningham

People are more than you think they are. And they're less, as well. The trick lies in negotiating your way between the two.

~Michael Cunningham

What I wanted to do seemed simple. I wanted something alive and shocking enough that it could be a morning in somebody's life. The most ordinary morning. Imagine, trying to do that.

~Michael Cunningham

As writers we must, from our very opening sentence, speak with authority to our readers.

~Michael Cunningham

A writer should always feel like he's in over his head

~Michael Cunningham

The lives great artists live and the books they write are two very different things.

~Michael Cunningham

What a thrill, what a shock, to be alive on a morning in June, prosperous, almost scandalously privileged, with a simple errand to run.

~Michael Cunningham

Virginia Woolf's great novel, 'Mrs. Dalloway,' is the first great book I ever read. I read it almost by accident when I was in high school, when I was 15 years old.

~Michael Cunningham

What does it mean to regret when you have no choice? It's what you can bear. And there it is... It was death. I chose life.

~Michael Cunningham

A certain slightly cruel disregard for the feelings of living people is simply part of the package. I think a writer, if he's any good, is not an entirely benign entity in the world.

~Michael Cunningham

What do you do when you're no longer the hero of your own story?

~Michael Cunningham

I think writing is, by definition, an optimistic act.

~Michael Cunningham

There is still that singular perfection, and it's perfect in part because it seemed, at the time, so clearly to promise more.

~Michael Cunningham

I seem to produce a novel approximately once every three years.

~Michael Cunningham

There's just this for consolation: an hour here or there when our lives seem, against all odds and expectations, to burst open and give us

everything we've ever imagined.

~Michael Cunningham

Silly humans. Banging on a tub to make a bear dance when we would move the stars to pity.

~Michael Cunningham

Accept that, like many men, you have a streak of the homoerotic in you. Why would you, why would anyone, want to be that straight?

~Michael Cunningham

Perhaps, in the extravagance of youth, we give away our devotions easily and all but arbitrarily, on the mistaken assumption that we'll always have more to give.

~Michael Cunningham

Here is the world, and you live in it, and are grateful. You try to be grateful.

~Michael Cunningham

You want to give him the book of his own life, the book that will locate him, parent him, arm him for the changes.

~Michael Cunningham

This is what you do. You make a future for yourself out of the raw material at hand.

~Michael Cunningham

Oh, all you immigrants and visionaries, what do you hope to find here, who do you hope to become?

~Michael Cunningham

I love movies, I love television, I love narratives of all kinds.

~Michael Cunningham

Insomniacs know better than anyone how it would be to haunt a house.

~Michael Cunningham

What she wants to say has to do not only with joy but with the penetrating, constant fear that is joy's other half.

~Michael Cunningham

I have no useful theories about love and marriage.

~Michael Cunningham

I know, speaking for myself, no matter what I'm able to do, no matter what book comes out and ends up on paper, I always had something bigger and grander in my head.

~Michael Cunningham

She is not a writer at all, really; she is merely a gifted eccentric.

~Michael Cunningham

These days, Clarissa believes, you measure people first by their kindness and their capacity for devotion. You get tired, sometimes, of wit and intellect; everybody's little display of genius.

~Michael Cunningham

We always worry about the wrong things, don't we?

~Michael Cunningham

That is what we do. That is what people do. They stay alive for each other.

~Michael Cunningham

We'd hoped for love of a different kind, love that knew and forgave our human frailty but did not miniaturize our grander ideas of ourselves.

~Michael Cunningham

But there are still the hours, aren't there? One and then another, and you get through that one and then, my god, there's another.

~Michael Cunningham

That summer when she was eighteen, it seemed anything could happen, anything at all.

~Michael Cunningham

I don't think two people could have been happier than we have been.

~Michael Cunningham

Youth is the only sexy tragedy. It's James Dean jumping into his Porsche Spyder, it's Marilyn heading off to bed.

~Michael Cunningham

Please, God, send me something to adore.

~Michael Cunningham

She will remain sane and she will live as she was meant to live, richly and deeply, among others of her kind, in full possession and command of her gifts.

~Michael Cunningham

You grow weary of being treated as the enemy simply because you are not young anymore; because you dress unexceptionally.

~Michael Cunningham

Sure, go ahead, simulate life, using only ink and paper.

~Michael Cunningham

. . . he felt himself entering a moment so real he could only run toward it, shouting.

~Michael Cunningham

It's the world, you live in it, even if some boy has made a fool of you.

~Michael Cunningham

Love is deep, a mystery - who wants to understand its every particular?

~Michael Cunningham

I just don't feel much interested in the lifestyles of the rich and famous.

~Michael Cunningham

Here's a secret. Many novelists, if they are pressed and if they are being honest, will admit that the finished book is a rather rough translation of the book they'd intended to write.

~Michael Cunningham

She is, above all else, tired; she wants more than anything to return to her bed and her book. The world, this world, feels suddenly stunned and stunted, far from everything.

~Michael Cunningham

Dead, we are revealed in our true dimensions, and they are surprisingly modest.

~Michael Cunningham

a certain bohemian, good-witch sort of charm

~Michael Cunningham

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