

Milan Kundera

Quotes

*Men, People, Love Is, Mean, Memories, Lying, Unbearable, Thinking,
Unbearable Lightness Of Being, Children, Book, Past, World, Doe, Two, Ideas,
Eye, Love, Self, Dream*

The Greek word for "return" is nostos. Algos means "suffering." So nostalgia is the suffering caused by an unappeased yearning to return.

~Milan Kundera

The stupidity of people comes from having an answer for everything. The wisdom of the novel comes from having a question for everything.

~Milan Kundera

There is a certain part of all of us that lives outside of time. Perhaps we become aware of our age only at exceptional moments and most of the time we are ageless.

~Milan Kundera

Those who consider the Devil to be a partisan of Evil and angels to be warriors for Good accept the demagogy of the angels. Things are clearly more complicated.

~Milan Kundera

Dreaming is not merely an act of communication; it is also an aesthetic activity, a game of the imagination, a game that is a value in itself.

~Milan Kundera

Her drama was a drama not of heaviness but of lightness. What fell to her lot was not the burden but the unbearable lightness of being.

~Milan Kundera

The worst thing is not that the world is unfree, but that people have unlearned their liberty.

~Milan Kundera

When the heart speaks, the mind finds it indecent to object.

~Milan Kundera

In the sunset of dissolution, everything is illuminated by the aura of

nostalgia, even the guillotine.

~Milan Kundera

Memory does not make films, it makes photographs.

~Milan Kundera

I feel a frantic desire to free myself. To start all over again and in another way.

~Milan Kundera

To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring - it was peace.

~Milan Kundera

Oh lovers! be careful in those dangerous first days! once you've brought breakfast in bed you'll have to bring it forever, unless you want to be accused of lovelessness and betrayal.

~Milan Kundera

Humanity's true moral test, its fundamental test consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals.

~Milan Kundera

The love between dog and man is idyllic, dogs were never expelled from paradise.

~Milan Kundera

We can never know what to want, because, living only one life, we can neither compare it with our previous lives nor perfect it in our lives to come.

~Milan Kundera

The worth of a human being lies in the ability to extend oneself, to go outside oneself, to exist in and for other people.

~Milan Kundera

Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent.

~Milan Kundera

You can't measure the mutual affection of two human beings by the number of words they exchange.

~Milan Kundera

All great novels, all true novels, are bisexual.

~Milan Kundera

I think, therefore I am' is the statement of an intellectual who underrates toothaches.

~Milan Kundera

Nudity is the uniform of the other side... nudity is a shroud.

~Milan Kundera

To laugh is to live profoundly.

~Milan Kundera

But isn't it true that an author can write only about himself?

~Milan Kundera

The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.

~Milan Kundera

loves are like empires: when the idea they are founded on crumbles, they, too, fade away.

~Milan Kundera

In the mind of a woman for whom no place is home the thought of an end to all flight is unbearable.

~Milan Kundera

People fascinated by the idea of progress never suspect that every step forward is also a step on the way to the end.

~Milan Kundera

she loved to walk down the street with a book under her arm. It had the same significance for her as an elegant cane for the dandy a century ago. It differentiated her from others.

~Milan Kundera

Happiness is the longing for repetition.

~Milan Kundera

Optimism is the opium of the people.

~Milan Kundera

Dogs do not have many advantages over people, but one of them is extremely important: euthanasia is not forbidden by law in their case; animals have the right to a merciful death.

~Milan Kundera

Merely by being born intelligent, you right away find yourself in absolute exile.

~Milan Kundera

Ambition is a poor excuse for not having sense enough to be lazy.

~Milan Kundera

Sensuality is the total mobilization of the senses: an individual observes his partner intently, straining to catch every sound.

~Milan Kundera

A person who longs to leave the place where he lives is an unhappy person.

~Milan Kundera

The emotion of love gives all of us a misleading illusion of knowing the other.

~Milan Kundera

A worker may be the hammer's master, but the hammer still prevails. A tool knows exactly how it is meant to be handled, while the user of the tool can only have an approximate idea.

~Milan Kundera

And what can life be worth if the first rehearsal for life is life itself?

~Milan Kundera

Love is a desire for that lost half of ourselves.

~Milan Kundera

There is nothing heavier than compassion. Not even one's own pain weighs so heavy as the pain one feels for someone, pain intensified by the imagination and prolonged by a hundred echos.

~Milan Kundera

Two people in love, alone, isolated from the world, that's beautiful.

~Milan Kundera

The longing for Paradise is man's longing not to be man.

~Milan Kundera

The sound of laughter is like the vaulted dome of a temple of happiness.

~Milan Kundera

The source of anxiety lies in the future. If you can keep the future out of mind, you can forget your worries.

~Milan Kundera

How goodness heightens beauty!

~Milan Kundera

The purpose of the poetry is not to dazzle us with an astonishing thought, but to make one moment of existence unforgettable and worthy of unbearable nostalgia.

~Milan Kundera

A man able to think isn't defeated - even when he is defeated.

~Milan Kundera

She regarded books as the emblems of secret brotherhood. A man with this sort of library couldn't possibly hurt her.

~Milan Kundera

On the surface, an intelligible lie; underneath, the unintelligible truth.

~Milan Kundera

Dogs are our link to paradise.

~Milan Kundera

Hate traps us by binding us too tightly to our adversary.

~Milan Kundera

Noise has one advantage. It drowns out words.

~Milan Kundera

The degree of slowness is directionally proportional to the intensity of memory. The degree of speed is directionally proportional to the intensity of forgetting.

~Milan Kundera

Love is the longing for the half of ourselves we have lost.

~Milan Kundera

Yes, if you're looking for infinity, just close your eyes!

~Milan Kundera

Yes, it's crazy. Love is either crazy or it's nothing at all.

~Milan Kundera

For he was aware of the great secret of life: Women don't look for handsome men. Women look for men who have had beautiful women. Having an ugly mistress is therefore a fatal mistake.

~Milan Kundera

Only animals were not expelled from Paradise.

~Milan Kundera

People are going deaf because music is played louder and louder, but because they're going deaf, it has to be played louder still.

~Milan Kundera

Speak truth to power.

~Milan Kundera

Chance and chance alone has a message for us. Everything that occurs out of necessity, everything expected, repeated day in and day out, is mute. Only chance can speak to us.

~Milan Kundera

But when the strong were too weak to hurt the weak, the weak had to be strong enough to leave.

~Milan Kundera

My lifelong ambition has been to unite the utmost seriousness of question with the utmost lightness of form.

~Milan Kundera

Anyone whose goal is 'something higher' must expect someday to suffer vertigo.

~Milan Kundera

The greater the ambiguity, the greater the pleasure.

~Milan Kundera

The combination of a frivolous form and a serious subject immediately unmask the truth about our dramas.

~Milan Kundera

Metaphors are dangerous. Love begins with a metaphor. Which is to say, love begins at the point when a woman enters her first word into our poetic memory.

~Milan Kundera

The more vast the amount of time we've left behind us, the more irresistible is the voice calling us to return to it.

~Milan Kundera

Necessity knows no magic formulae-they are all left to chance. If a love is to be unforgettable, fortuities must immediately start fluttering down to it like birds to Francis of Assisi's shoulders.

~Milan Kundera

Eroticism is like a dance: one always leads the other.

~Milan Kundera

Beauty is a rebellion against time.

~Milan Kundera

A man is responsible for his ignorance.

~Milan Kundera

Listening to a news broadcast is like smoking a cigarette and crushing the butt in the ashtray.

~Milan Kundera

You think that just because it's already happened, the past is finished and unchangeable? Oh no, the past is cloaked in multicolored taffeta and every time we look at it we see a different hue.

~Milan Kundera

I want you to be weak. As weak as I am.

~Milan Kundera

To be a writer does not mean to preach a truth, it means to discover a truth.

~Milan Kundera

Without realizing it, the individual composes his life according to the laws of beauty even in times of greatest distress.

~Milan Kundera

Before we are forgotten, we will be turned into kitsch. Kitsch is the stopover between being and oblivion.

~Milan Kundera

Nothing requires a greater effort of thought than arguments to justify the rule of non-thought.

~Milan Kundera

God has been kind to dogs in no putting a sense of beauty into their heads.

~Milan Kundera

No great movement designed to change the world can bear to be laughed at or belittled. Mockery is a rust that corrodes all it touches.

~Milan Kundera

Love is a continual interrogation. I don't know of a better definition of love.

~Milan Kundera

The longing for order is at the same time a longing for death, because life is an incessant disruption of order.

~Milan Kundera

As you live out your desolation, you can be either unhappy or happy. Having that choice is what constitutes your freedom.

~Milan Kundera

There is no perfection only life

~Milan Kundera

And therein lies the whole of man's plight. Human time does not turn in a circle; it runs ahead in a straight line. That is why man cannot be happy: happiness is the longing for repetition.

~Milan Kundera

Only the most naive of questions are truly serious.

~Milan Kundera

Between the approximation of the idea and the precision of reality there was a small gap of the unimaginable, and it was this hiatus that gave him no rest.

~Milan Kundera

Unlike the puerile loyalty to a conviction, loyalty to a friend is a virtue - perhaps the only virtue, the last remaining one.

~Milan Kundera

No matter how much we scorn it, kitsch is an integral part of the human condition.

~Milan Kundera

The best actors do not let the wheels show.

~Milan Kundera

The senator had only one argument in his favour: his feeling. When the heart speaks, the mind finds it indecent to object. In the realm of kitsch, the dictatorship of the heart reigns supreme.

~Milan Kundera

We go through the present blindfolded... Only later, when the blindfold is removed and we examine the past, do we realize what we've been through and understand what it means.

~Milan Kundera

We live everything as it comes, without warning, like an actor going on cold.

~Milan Kundera

A man who loses his privacy loses everything. And a man who gives it up of his own free will is a monster.

~Milan Kundera

Mysticism and exaggeration go together. A mystic must not fear ridicule if he is to push all the way to the limits of humility or the limits of delight.

~Milan Kundera

Metaphors are dangerous. Love begins with a metaphor

~Milan Kundera

Since the insignificance of all things is our lot, we should not bear it as an affliction but learn to enjoy it.

~Milan Kundera

Those boobs of yours are ubiquitous - like God!

~Milan Kundera

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