

Mordecai Richler

Quotes

Writing, Men, Two, Country, Self, Years, Dad, World, Dying, Canada, Growing Up, People, Book, Age, Three, Believe, Apology, Scene, Views, Too Late

If you caricature friends in your first novel they will be upset, but if you don't they will feel betrayed.

~Mordecai Richler

A boy can be two, three, four potential people, but a man is only one. He murders the others.

~Mordecai Richler

There are three sides to every argument. Yours. The other guy's. And the right side.

~Mordecai Richler

Nothing is absolute any longer. There is a choice of beliefs and a choice of truths to go with them. If you choose not to choose then there is no truth at all. There are only points of view.

~Mordecai Richler

There are ten commandments, right? Well, it's like an exam. You get eight out of ten, you're just about top of the class.

~Mordecai Richler

I'm criticized by the feminists, by the Jewish establishment, by Canadian nationalists. And why not? I've had my pot shots at them. I'm fair game.

~Mordecai Richler

Beauty, like male ballet dancers, makes some men afraid.

~Mordecai Richler

Each man creates god in his own image.

~Mordecai Richler

Edmonton is not the end of the world but you can certainly see it from there.

~Mordecai Richler

Fundamentally, all writing is about the same thing; it's about dying, about the brief flicker of time we have here, and the frustration that it creates.

~Mordecai Richler

In Canada, nobody is ever overthrown because nobody gives a damn.

~Mordecai Richler

If you don't count some of Jehovah's injunctions, there are no humorists in the Bible.

~Mordecai Richler

The Canadian kid who wants to grow up to be Prime Minister isn't thinking big, he is setting a limit to his ambitions rather early.

~Mordecai Richler

Actually, when it comes to knocking the Canadian cultural scene, nobody outdoes Canadians, myself included. We are veritable masters of self-deprecation.

~Mordecai Richler

The revolution eats its own. Capitalism re-creates itself.

~Mordecai Richler

I obviously prefer writing novels but I take my journalism very seriously, and I enjoy doing it between novels. It gives me an opportunity to move in the outside world.

~Mordecai Richler

Thousands of miles of wheat, indifference, and self- apology.

~Mordecai Richler

Tomorrow country then, tomorrow country now.

~Mordecai Richler

Wherever I travel I'm too late. The orgy has moved elsewhere.

~Mordecai Richler

Listen your Lordship, I'm a respecter of institutions. Even in Paris, I remained a Canadian. I puffed hashish, but I didn't inhale.

~Mordecai Richler

The process hasn't changed, but the writer has developed. I still get up every morning and go to work.

~Mordecai Richler

It is no more expected of most producers to read a book than it is, say, of Ted Williams to dust off home plate.

~Mordecai Richler

Fiorito has all the right stuff. His splendid memoir about his relationship with his dying father belongs on that small shelf with Philip Roth's *Patrimony* and Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*.

~Mordecai Richler

I'm world-famous ... all over Canada.

~Mordecai Richler

This is an age of scientific wonders. You miss somebody so you pick up the phone to say hello. Three minutes for sixty-five cents. Nobody goes broke.

~Mordecai Richler

A novel may take anywhere from two to five years to write and, in the end, you might manage a couple of thousand dollars on it, no more.

~Mordecai Richler

If you're writing a novel, you're in a room for three or four years. There's not much coming in from the outside.

~Mordecai Richler

And furthermore did you know that behind the discovery of America there was a Jewish financier?

~Mordecai Richler

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