

Muriel Spark Quotes

*Men, People, Mind, Girl, Years, Lying, Art, Home, Being In Love, Voice, Flower,
Giving, Cat, Believe, Writing, Doe, Christian, Two, Death, Silence*

Give me a girl at an impressionable age and she is mine for life.

~Muriel Spark

I see no reason to keep silent about my enjoyment of the sound of my own voice as I work.

~Muriel Spark

The true novelist is one who understands the work as a continuous poem, is a myth-maker, and the wonder of the art resides in the endless different ways of telling a story.

~Muriel Spark

To me education is a leading out of what is already there in the pupil's soul.

~Muriel Spark

She wasn't a person to whom things happen. She did all the happenings.

~Muriel Spark

Parents learn a lot from their children about coping with life.

~Muriel Spark

If you're going to do a thing, you should do it thoroughly. If you're going to be a Christian, you may as well be a Catholic.

~Muriel Spark

It is impossible to persuade a man who does not disagree, but smiles.

~Muriel Spark

If you want to concentrate deeply on some problem, and especially some piece of writing or paper-work, you should acquire a cat . . .

~Muriel Spark

A rebellion against a tyrant is only immoral when it hasn't got a chance.

~Muriel Spark

Ridicule is the only honorable weapon we have left.

~Muriel Spark

The sacrifice of pleasures is of course itself a pleasure.

~Muriel Spark

Let us run up debts. One is nobody without debts.

~Muriel Spark

It is well, when in difficulties, to say never a word, neither black nor white. Speech is silver but silence is golden.

~Muriel Spark

Contradictions in human character are one of its most consistent notes.

~Muriel Spark

sooner or later I do what I want to do.

~Muriel Spark

Beware of men bearing flowers.

~Muriel Spark

You look for one thing and you find another.

~Muriel Spark

One's prime is elusive. You little girls, when you grow up, must be on the alert to recognize your prime at whatever time of your life it may occur. You must then live it to the full.

~Muriel Spark

everything happens to an artist; time is always redeemed, nothing is lost and wonders never cease.

~Muriel Spark

Frankness is usually a euphemism for rudeness.

~Muriel Spark

Death, when it approaches, ought not to take one by surprise. It should be part of the full expectancy of life. Without an ever-present sense of death life is insipid.

~Muriel Spark

It is impossible to repent of love. The sin of love does not exist.

~Muriel Spark

Looking forward to going home, I was necessarily looking backward.

~Muriel Spark

One should only see a psychiatrist out of boredom.

~Muriel Spark

Neurotics are awfully quick to notice other people's mentalities.

~Muriel Spark

If you choose the sort of life which has no conventional pattern you have to try to make an art of it, or it is a mess.

~Muriel Spark

Goodness, Truth and Beauty come first

~Muriel Spark

I have a great desire to make people smile - not laugh. Laughter is too aggressive. People bare their teeth.

~Muriel Spark

Allow me, in conclusion, to congratulate you warmly upon your sexual intercourse, as well as your singing.

~Muriel Spark

Interviews can be stimulating. It depends on the intelligence of the interviewer.

~Muriel Spark

For those who like that sort of thing," said Miss Brodie in her best Edinburgh voice, "That is the sort of thing they like.

~Muriel Spark

Art and religion first; then philosophy; lastly science. That is the order of the great subjects of life, that's their order of importance.

~Muriel Spark

The sparkle and morning-freshness of the shop, and the butter-conjuring girl, formed a mind-picture which accompanied the whole of my youth.(about the Buttercup Dairy)

~Muriel Spark

Try as i do, i can't recall her surname. Indeed, her very abstractedness and insubstantial personality seemed to say 'forget me'; she seemed to live in parenthesis.

~Muriel Spark

The word "education" comes from the root e from ex, out, and duco, I lead. It means a leading out. To me education is a leading out of what is already there in the pupil's soul.

~Muriel Spark

it never really occurred to her that literary men, if they like women at all, do not want literary women but girls.

~Muriel Spark

we have invented sex guilt to take our minds off the real thing.

~Muriel Spark

How wonderful it feels to be an artist and a woman in the twentieth century.

~Muriel Spark

So great was the noise during the day that I used to lie awake at night listening to silence.

~Muriel Spark

I never trust the airlines from those countries where the pilots believe in the afterlife. You are safer when they don't.

~Muriel Spark

Final perseverance is the doctrine that wins the eternal victory in small things as in great

~Muriel Spark

I'm old-fashioned beyond my years.

~Muriel Spark

I was just as anxious to prevent injustice as to cause justice.

~Muriel Spark

I am a hoarder of two things: documents and trusted friends.

~Muriel Spark

Jealousy ... is an affliction of the spirit which, unlike some sins of the flesh, gives no one any pleasure.

~Muriel Spark

Every communist has a fascist frown, every fascist a communist smile.

~Muriel Spark

I often wonder if we were all characters in one of God's dreams.

~Muriel Spark

Beware the ire of the calm.

~Muriel Spark

From my experience of life I believe my personal motto should be:
'Beware of any man bringing flowers.

~Muriel Spark

Fiction to me is a kind of parable. You have got to make up your mind it's not true. Some kind of truth emerges from it, but it's not fact.

~Muriel Spark

Nothing can be more puritanical in application than the virtues.

~Muriel Spark

The one certain way for a woman to hold a man is to leave him for religion.

~Muriel Spark

I wouldn't take the Pope too seriously. He's a Pole first, a pope second, and maybe a Christian third.

~Muriel Spark

These years are still the years of my prime. It is important to recognise the years of one's prime, always remember that.

~Muriel Spark

There was altogether too much candor in married life; it was an indelicate modern idea, and frequently led to upsets in a household, if not divorce.

~Muriel Spark

No mind should submit their mind to another mind He that complies against his will is of his own opinion still -- that's my motto. I won't be brainwashed.

~Muriel Spark

We often laughed at others in our house, and I picked up the craft of being polite while people were present and laughing later if there was anything to laugh about.

~Muriel Spark

It is difficult for people of advanced years to start remembering they must die. It is best to form the habit while young.

~Muriel Spark

It's a whydunnit in q-sharp major and it has a message: never talk to the sort of girls that you wouldn't leave lying about in your drawing-room for the servants to pick up.

~Muriel Spark

People who quoted the Scriptures in criticism of others were terrible bores and usually they misapplied the text. One could prove anything against anyone from the Bible.

~Muriel Spark

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