

# Norman Maclean

## Quotes

*Fishing, Rivers, Father, World, Elude You, Helping, Elude Us, Sea, Beautiful,  
Giving, Brother, Feelings, Mountain, Environmental, Running, Love, Stories,  
Perfect, Art, Water*

Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it.

~Norman Maclean

At sunrise everything is luminous but not clear.

~Norman Maclean

All good things come by grace, and grace comes by art, and art does not come easy.

~Norman Maclean

At sunrise everything is luminous but not clear. It is those we live with and love and should know who elude us. You can love completely without complete understanding.

~Norman Maclean

It is those we live with and love and should know who elude us.

~Norman Maclean

Many of us would probably be better fishermen if we did not spend so much time watching and waiting for the world to become perfect

~Norman Maclean

The world is full of bastards, the number increasing rapidly the further one gets from Missoula, Montana.

~Norman Maclean

We can love completely what we cannot completely understand.

~Norman Maclean

One great thing about fly fishing is that after a while nothing exists of the world but thoughts about fly fishing

~Norman Maclean

The nearest anyone can come to finding himself at any given age is to

find a story that somehow tells him about himself.

~Norman Maclean

A river, though, has so many things to say that it is hard to know what it says to each of us.

~Norman Maclean

In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing.

~Norman Maclean

When exhausted and feeling sorry for yourself, at least change your socks.

~Norman Maclean

At the time I did not know that stories of life are often more like rivers than books.

~Norman Maclean

Help is giving part of yourself to somebody who comes to accept it willingly and needs it badly.

~Norman Maclean

One of life's quiet excitements is to stand somewhat apart from yourself and watch yourself softly becoming the author of something beautiful even if it is only a floating ash.

~Norman Maclean

...life every now and then becomes literature...as if life had been made and not happened.

~Norman Maclean

I am haunted by waters.

~Norman Maclean

I knew that, when needed, mountains would move for me.

~Norman Maclean

My father was very sure about certain matters pertaining to the universe. To him all good things-trout as well as eternal salvation-come by grace and grace comes by art and art does not come easy.

~Norman Maclean

Now nearly all those I loved and did not understand when I was young are dead, but I still reach out to them.

~Norman Maclean

Unless we are willing to escape into sentimentality or fantasy, often the best we can do with catastrophes, even our own, is to find out exactly what happened and restore some of the missing parts.

~Norman Maclean

If our father had had his way, nobody who did not know how to fish would be allowed to disgrace a fish by catching him.

~Norman Maclean

A mystery of the universe is how it has managed to survive with so much volunteer help.

~Norman Maclean

How can a question be answered that asks a lifetime of questions.

~Norman Maclean

The hardest thing usually to leave behind, as was the case now, can loosely be called the conscience.

~Norman Maclean

Slowly we became silent, and silence itself if an enemy to friendship.

~Norman Maclean

Ahead and to the west was our ranger station - and the mountains of Idaho, poems of geology stretching beyond any boundaries and seemingly even beyond the world.

~Norman Maclean

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