

# Richard Ford

## Quotes

*Writing, People, Thinking, Reading, Way, Loss, Gun, Literature, Stories, Book,  
Heart, Past, Married, Long, Children, World, Mean, Real, Believe, Done*

Find what causes a commotion in your heart. Find a way to write about that

~Richard Ford

I know you can dream your way through an otherwise fine life, and never wake up, which is what I almost did.

~Richard Ford

Some idiotic things are well worth doing.

~Richard Ford

Your life doesn't mean what you have or what you get. Its what your'e willing to give up.

~Richard Ford

If you lose all hope, you can always find it again.

~Richard Ford

If loneliness is the disease, the story is the cure.

~Richard Ford

Maturity, as I conceived it, was recognizing what was bad or peculiar in life, admitting it has to stay that way, and going ahead with the best of things.

~Richard Ford

The art of living your life has a lot to do with getting over loss. The less the past haunts you, the better.

~Richard Ford

Our ex-wives always harbour secrets about us that make them irresistible. Until, of course, we remember who we are and what we did and why we are not married anymore.

~Richard Ford

Some people want to be bank presidents. Other people want to rob banks.

~Richard Ford

I don't want to be taken to Bhutan and smell the flowers. I want to be told something I couldn't have been told any other way.

~Richard Ford

Love isn't a thing, after all, but an endless series of single acts.

~Richard Ford

I have a theory... that someplace at the heart of most compelling stories is something that doesn't make sense.

~Richard Ford

You can't always go to the well and have things be funny.

~Richard Ford

Reading is probably what leads most writers to writing.

~Richard Ford

At the exact moment any decision seems to be being made, it's usually long after the real decision was actually made--like light we see emitted from stars.

~Richard Ford

Writing is the only thing I've ever done with persistence, except for being married.

~Richard Ford

Married life requires shared mystery even when all the facts are known.

~Richard Ford

I had a Tourette's period. And obsessive compulsive disorder. Things would get in my brain that I couldn't get out of my brain.

~Richard Ford

With imagination, you can put something where nothing was.

~Richard Ford

I didn't read a serious book until I was 19.

~Richard Ford

What was our life like? I almost don't remember now. Though I remember it, the space of time it occupied. And I remember it fondly.

~Richard Ford

I'm an equal opportunity reader - although I don't much read plays. And since I was raised a Presbyterian, pretty much all pleasures are guilty.

~Richard Ford

I'm intrigued by how ordinary behavior exists so close beside its opposite.

~Richard Ford

The thing about being a writer is that you never have to ask, 'Am I doing something that's worthwhile?' Because even if you fail at it, you know that it's worth doing.

~Richard Ford

Things you did. Things you never did. Things you dreamed. After a long time they run together.

~Richard Ford

I'm kind of a distractible guy.

~Richard Ford

Marry somebody you love and who thinks you being a writer's a good idea.

~Richard Ford

Writing never came naturally and I still have to force my hand to do it.

~Richard Ford

Things happen when people are not where they belong, and the world moves forward and back by that principle.

~Richard Ford

We're all hoping that Trump doesn't get our world on his terms because there won't be anything of it left. Trump is a true psychopath, a psychopath in the way that tragedy becomes tragedy.

~Richard Ford

Most things don't stay the way they are very long.

~Richard Ford

When people realize they are being listened to, they tell you things.

~Richard Ford

The National Rifle Association is a domestic terrorist organization that tacitly supports the killing of children more than it supports reasoned gun legislation.

~Richard Ford

I went to college to study hospitality. I quickly got out of that and realized that what I liked to do was write.

~Richard Ford

You can't write ... on the strength of influence. You can only write a good story or a good novel by yourself.

~Richard Ford

Fear and hope are alike underneath.

~Richard Ford

It is right that you have to have a tolerance for solitude. But when that solitude bears fruit, you can abandon it. You can be in the company of others.

~Richard Ford

Life's passed along to us empty. We have to make up the happiness part.

~Richard Ford

Cynicism makes you feel smart, I know it, even when you aren't smart.

~Richard Ford

You're only good if you can do bad and decide not to.

~Richard Ford

When I write a novel I start each morning by reading for 20 minutes.

~Richard Ford

To write you had to read so I backed into reading.

~Richard Ford

Paul Ryan's just a really, deeply evil little creature. But he's not little; he's actually quite tall, I'm sorry to see. I'm always sorry when really bad guys are tall.

~Richard Ford

Only sometimes you can't feel anything about a subject without hypothesizing its extinction.

~Richard Ford

The pace of life feels morally dangerous to me.

~Richard Ford

Very early you come to the realization that nothing will ever take you away from yourself.

~Richard Ford

I don't have a very logical and orderly mind.

~Richard Ford

I get very involved in the internal logic of sentences.

~Richard Ford

I'm not one of those people who as a writer lets my characters tell me what they want to do or call to me or seek me. I go seeking for things, using them as an agent, really.

~Richard Ford

And I think that in myself (and perhaps evident in what I write) fear of loss and the corresponding instinct to protect myself against loss are potent forces.

~Richard Ford

I've been mainly a happy boy in my life. I married the right girl and we did what we wanted to do.

~Richard Ford

America beats on you so hard the whole time. You are constantly being pummeled by other people's rights and their sense of patriotism.

~Richard Ford

My job is to have empathy and curiosity for things that I've never done. Also, I'm a person whom people talk to.

~Richard Ford

I started reading literature at 17 or 18, and I felt this extra beat to life.

~Richard Ford

In order to write novels for a living - it's not pathological, but I do think and worry and brood and fidget about stuff that I'm working on.

~Richard Ford

Maybe I'm a serial regional writer. First here, then there, across the map.

~Richard Ford

At heart, of course, a story itself is consolation's instrument.

~Richard Ford

I realized I loved you, and I didn't want to be married to somebody I didn't love. I wanted to be married to you. It isn't all that complicated.

~Richard Ford

The world is a more engaging and less dramatic place than writers ever give it credit for being

~Richard Ford

Americans don't have saner gun laws because most Americans, including those citizens who puzzle over better angels, don't want saner gun laws.

~Richard Ford

I grew up in Mississippi being told it was a great place, but not feeling that. When I finally began reading seriously, literature showed me something about where I was from which was worthwhile.

~Richard Ford

I wouldn't be a very good writer if someone hadn't taught me how to read.



~Richard Ford

It is no loss to mankind when one writer decides to call it a day. When a tree falls in the forest, who cares but the monkeys?

~Richard Ford

I didn't feel up to writing about 9/11. If I were to write about it, it would take me years.

~Richard Ford

It's interesting to leave a place, interesting even to think about it. Leaving reminds us of what we can part with and what we can't, then offers us something new to look forward to, to dream about.

~Richard Ford

For, how else to seize such an instant? How to shout out into the empty air just the right words, and on cue? Frame a moment to last a lifetime?

~Richard Ford

Even though I get a lot done with my solitude, and I make the best use of it possible, I always think solitude is an interlude in a period of time, which is populated by others.

~Richard Ford

Tweet, tweet, you're alive, you ignorant asshole.

~Richard Ford

Happiness for me is getting to write about the most important things I know.

~Richard Ford

Most things don't stay the way they are for very long. I take nothing for granted and try to be ready for the change that's soon to come.

~Richard Ford

My father died in my arms. That's tumult. That's everything exploding.

~Richard Ford

She was an artist. She held opposites in her mind.

~Richard Ford

The ways in which things are superficially similar but also distinct is interesting to me.

~Richard Ford

I think once you love somebody, you love somebody; that's just how it is.

~Richard Ford

Someone ... tell us what's important, because we no longer know.

~Richard Ford

If there's another thing that sportswriting teaches you, it is that there are no transcendent themes in life. In all cases things are here and they're over, and that has to be enough.

~Richard Ford

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