

Viggo Mortensen

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Kids, Years, Jobs, Character, Stories, Mean, Different, Book,
Actors, Country, Way, Directors, Ideas, Real, Trying, Interesting, World,
Important*

There's no excuse to be bored. Sad, yes. Angry, yes. Depressed, yes. Crazy, yes. But there's no excuse for boredom, ever.

~Viggo Mortensen

I have never been in a natural place and felt that it was a waste of time. I never have. And it's a relief. If I'm walking around a desert or whatever, every second is worthwhile.

~Viggo Mortensen

It's hard not to get depressed when you pay attention to the world and how strangely and corrupt the people in it sometimes behave.

~Viggo Mortensen

When I have a day off, I won't spend it at a Hollywood party. I'd rather be at home with paints and a blank canvas.

~Viggo Mortensen

You should always do the things in life that are both interesting and make you afraid.

~Viggo Mortensen

Be kind. It's worthwhile to make an effort to learn about other people and figure out what you might have in common with them.

~Viggo Mortensen

I think that every person has many, many people inside of them. We change our personality depending on who we are talking to or what situation we are in.

~Viggo Mortensen

I think every family is dysfunctional, and some manage to control it better than others.

~Viggo Mortensen

My job as an artist, as I see it, is to understand and in some cases to take on various ways of thinking about people and the world that are different from my own, sometimes radically different.

~Viggo Mortensen

As Martin Luther King said, "Passively to participate in an unjust system is to accept that system and to participate in its evil."

~Viggo Mortensen

I like stories that leave you wanting more, leave you wondering, but don't tell you everything.

~Viggo Mortensen

You don't have to make something that people call art. Living is an artistic activity, there is an art to getting through the day.

~Viggo Mortensen

Any nominations a movie gets helps to raise the level of curiosity in the public, so in that sense awards and nominations are important.

~Viggo Mortensen

You know, real life doesn't just suddenly resolve itself. You have to keep working at it. Democracy, marriage, friendship. You can't just say she's my best friend. That's not a given, it's a process.

~Viggo Mortensen

Photography, painting or poetry - those are just extensions of me, how I perceive things; they are my way of communicating.

~Viggo Mortensen

You do need to get lucky, no matter how talented you are.

~Viggo Mortensen

My goal is just to make movies, whether they're big or small, that I'd like

to see 10 years from now.

~Viggo Mortensen

Perceval Press a publishing house I founded in 2002 and it's still going strong. Strong for us means not so many books per year, but each one we very carefully design and print.

~Viggo Mortensen

You know, real life doesn't just suddenly resolve itself. You have to keep working at it.

~Viggo Mortensen

The money I earn from films means I can help the people I want to help - you can do a lot of good if you want to.

~Viggo Mortensen

I prefer the smaller acting than big histrionics. It's about reacting and looks, which is often underestimated.

~Viggo Mortensen

Here's where we are, this is what's happening. So do something, or get out of the kitchen.

~Viggo Mortensen

When there is conflict, it's good to step away, even for five minutes, because you could say terrible things that you can't take back, so it's best to walk away.

~Viggo Mortensen

I try to research or make up for myself what happened in any character's life. From when he was born until the first page of the script. I fill in the blanks.

~Viggo Mortensen

You have a moral obligation to finish the job you said you would do.

~Viggo Mortensen

When people say that entertainers should "know your place," they might as well say the same thing about plumbers and teachers and cab drivers. We all should be able to express our views.

~Viggo Mortensen

In a movie, you're raw material, just a hue of some color and the director makes the painting.

~Viggo Mortensen

In other words, I'm against cheating, greed, cruelty, racism, imperialism, religious fundamentalism, treason, and the seemingly limitless capacity for hypocrisy shown by Bush and his administration.

~Viggo Mortensen

People like to pigeonhole you. It's easier.

~Viggo Mortensen

You know, 'Viggo' is a pretty dorky name in Denmark. It's like 'Oswald' or something. It's a very old Scandinavian name, at least 1,000 years old.

~Viggo Mortensen

I have a work ethic. If I say I'm going to do something, I do it.

~Viggo Mortensen

When you're under stress as a human being, you behave oddly and your relationships with people become strained.

~Viggo Mortensen

You know, Freud accepted his lot very stoically and very well and with a sense of humor. He aged and died gracefully, and there's a lot to be

said for that.

~Viggo Mortensen

I don't speak up about something unless I feel strongly about it and until I've researched a subject extensively and have an informed decision about it.

~Viggo Mortensen

As [John] Tolkien himself said, the story [Lord of the Ring] is not allegorical. He said so when people tried to make analogies to World War II and the fight against Hitler and his fascist coalition.

~Viggo Mortensen

As a kid I read Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, and a few others. As an adult have admired Leonardo da Vinci's drawings and notebooks.

~Viggo Mortensen

I'm not that involved in personal grooming. But I try not to be offensive to people.

~Viggo Mortensen

It's just like with people. You're going to get along better working with them - human or equine - if you ask politely rather than demand that they do things.

~Viggo Mortensen

We often live in the past a lot more than we probably realize.

~Viggo Mortensen

I have a roof over my head. I had a breakfast, and a lot of people in the world can't say that. I'm not going to complain about being interviewed.

~Viggo Mortensen

I'm optimistic about people and about the planet and about nature. I

think it's resilient, like people are.

~Viggo Mortensen

If I can get a day to myself, I won't answer the phone, I'll read or go for a walk. Simple, basic things. People think there's always time to do that but there isn't. Life is short.

~Viggo Mortensen

If you don't find some way to discuss what's going on inside you, it can come out in other ways that are self-destructive.

~Viggo Mortensen

If you're not optimistic on some level, then you've given up.

~Viggo Mortensen

There might be people out there who wouldn't hire me because they thought I should keep my mouth shut, but I'm not aware of that. Even if I saw evidence of that, it wouldn't really concern me.

~Viggo Mortensen

We all have secrets, some secrets bigger than others, is a normal human thing.

~Viggo Mortensen

Those who have the power and should be the most responsible are often the least responsible.

~Viggo Mortensen

I think that people who get to a certain position, and then try to ferociously defend it or build on it, it's kind of a dead-end street. You see people becoming miserable that way.

~Viggo Mortensen

I'm not afraid of death, but I resent it. I think it's unfair and irritating.

~Viggo Mortensen

I don't think Adam Sandler or Will Ferrell fear competition from me in their arena.

~Viggo Mortensen

Saying you are a patriot does not make you one; wearing a flag pin does not in itself mean anything at all.

~Viggo Mortensen

The Road was a movie that has a good reputation, even though it wasn't released very well, but that's a movie I'm very proud of.

~Viggo Mortensen

It doesn't take that many years for a kid to realise that they're going to die. It's always there in the back of their mind the rest of their lives.

~Viggo Mortensen

Jung viewed Freud as a mentor, but he never wanted to be anybody's disciple.

~Viggo Mortensen

If you're trying to please everyone, then you're not going to make anything that is honestly yours, I don't think, in the long run.

~Viggo Mortensen

Life is short and the older you get, the more you feel it. Indeed, the shorter it is.

~Viggo Mortensen

The efforts of Black Lives Matter to bring attention to the all-too-frequent instances of unjustified violence being used by policemen may not be paying off as quickly as some might hope.

~Viggo Mortensen

I'd like to, when it's all said and done, say that I have at least a few stories that I feel proud of.

~Viggo Mortensen

I know I said I wanted to live forever and I would never be bored, but the reality is, it's probably kind of sad to live forever if you're the only one sticking around.

~Viggo Mortensen

This basic thing I always do: 'What happened between the character's birth, and page one of the script?' Anything that's not in the story, I'll fill in the blanks.

~Viggo Mortensen

That is to say, Hillary Clinton is not, in my mind, a satisfying or calming alternative to Donald Trump.

~Viggo Mortensen

Joseph Campbell said the privilege of a lifetime is being yourself. That's his feeling. And I guess it's mine too.

~Viggo Mortensen

Ignorance breeds antipathy. Until I got to know how computers worked, I didn't want anything to do with them. I said, 'Well, why do I need them? I write letters.' Which I still do.

~Viggo Mortensen

You can't really divorce yourself and your life from the world you live in.

~Viggo Mortensen

As Aragorn said at Helm's Deep, "There is always hope."

~Viggo Mortensen

I mean, any movie or story that makes you accept and be grateful for

something about your life is doing something right.

~Viggo Mortensen

I'm sort of contrary and stubborn sometimes. When everybody says, 'You have to read this book! You have to read this book!' I'm like 'Oh, I'll get around to it.'

~Viggo Mortensen

Each time I make a movie, it's like a paid scholarship to a different university course.

~Viggo Mortensen

The Holocaust movie is almost a genre in itself these days.

~Viggo Mortensen

I have a multicultural background, so I tend to have an open mind about things, and I find other cultures interesting.

~Viggo Mortensen

Usually the characters I play are men of few words, who communicate in non-verbal ways.

~Viggo Mortensen

Kids accept where they are because they don't know the past. They know what they have; they know where they are.

~Viggo Mortensen

Because of the internet, satellite TV, and the digital world, you can stay in touch, you can learn about other people from a young age.

~Viggo Mortensen

Pinochet and Barack Obama both have the same primary goal, and that's to be president and stay president as long as allowed.

~Viggo Mortensen

If you daren't enter the forest, or cannot find it, then perhaps you might find one tree, or a place where a tree could be, and just stop for a quiet moment to see what happens.

~Viggo Mortensen

It's always interesting to play a character that obviously has a secret.

~Viggo Mortensen

I now realize that I was very fortunate to have grown up in many different places, surrounded by all kinds of people, all kinds of points of view.

~Viggo Mortensen

I take my work seriously, but it's not the only thing that exists in the world.

~Viggo Mortensen

As far as money goes, there's a saying in Denmark: 'Your last suit doesn't have any pockets.' You can't take it with you. You can make all the money you want, but who cares?

~Viggo Mortensen

I like a twisted sense of humour. On 'A History of Violence,' David Cronenberg and I would be doing the grimmest scenes and laugh a lot.

~Viggo Mortensen

I pursue the things I do because I'm interested in them.

~Viggo Mortensen

With few exceptions, one ought always do what one is afraid of.

~Viggo Mortensen

Nobody really knows anybody completely, even if they've been married to 'em for 53 years, you know?

~Viggo Mortensen

Most actors can't make any kind of living.

~Viggo Mortensen

I don't like people who get into fights about football - or anything else.

~Viggo Mortensen

Some people who like dogs don't like cats, but I'm not like that.

~Viggo Mortensen

Kids are shy and they often don't want to make eye contact or say "thank you."

~Viggo Mortensen

I've been naked physically in movies - but it's a whole other thing to be naked emotionally in a way that's not just a distraction or a character.

~Viggo Mortensen

Speaking more than one language and living in a multicultural family and environment did not seem like anything but what it was: the world I lived in.

~Viggo Mortensen

Having a mixed background and feeling a little bit like a fish out of water in most places can be a benefit.

~Viggo Mortensen

Perhaps the itinerant upbringing my brothers and I had has something to do with my continued interest in perspectives different from my own.

~Viggo Mortensen

I think the older you get the harder it is to [lose] probably. Your metabolism slows down, whatever, but I'm a pretty active person.

~Viggo Mortensen

In 2016 we are faced with a particularly bizarre and unappetizing choice as regards the two main political parties' presidential candidates, in my opinion.

~Viggo Mortensen

I think if you don't say something it's lying by omission. I personally think it's immoral.

~Viggo Mortensen

Bernie Sanders has inspired millions of people in this country.

~Viggo Mortensen

To strive for something better - at least there's a chance.

~Viggo Mortensen

I look at my job as looking at the world from points of view that are different from mine - sometimes radically different from mine.

~Viggo Mortensen

I campaigned for [Dennis] Kucinich in 2008. I continue to be in touch with him and I really admire him. I think he's very brave and honest - unusually so for a U.S. politician.

~Viggo Mortensen

I trust Hillary Clinton about as far as I could throw Donald Trump.

~Viggo Mortensen

If you tell the story emotionally in a truthful way, then you start naturally looking at the landscape and thinking "Wow, we have to watch out."

~Viggo Mortensen

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