

# William Manchester

## Quotes

*Men, Dresses, Two, History, Gleam, Fighting, Fear, Elderly, Heroism, Color,  
Feel Good, Way, Sublime, Trying, Church, Editing, Play, Powerful, Writing,  
Facts*

The coconut trees, lithe and graceful, crowd the beach like a minuet of slender elderly virgins adopting flippant poses.

~William Manchester

Men do not fight for flag or country, for the Marine Corps or glory or any other abstraction. They fight for one another. And if you came through this ordeal, you would age with dignity.

~William Manchester

But there are no loners. No man lives in a void. His every act is conditioned by his time and his society.

~William Manchester

A man's task is to find himself, and if he fails in this, it doesn't much matter what else he finds.

~William Manchester

Actors who have tried to play Churchill and MacArthur have failed abysmally because each of those men was a great actor playing himself.

~William Manchester

He [Gen. Douglas MacArthur] never went to church, but he read the Bible every day and regarded himself as one of the world's two great defenders of Christendom. (The other was the pope.)

~William Manchester

The sum of a million facts is not the truth.

~William Manchester

I try to be as ruthless as possible. I ask myself of each sentence, "Is it clear? Is it true? Does it feel good?" And if it's not, then I rewrite it.

~William Manchester

His [Gen. Douglas MacArthur's] own heroes were Lincoln and Washington, and in some ways he resembled them. Like them, he was slandered and misunderstood.

~William Manchester

An Edwardian lady in full dress was a wonder to behold, and her preparations for viewing were awesome.

~William Manchester

To the medieval mind the possibility of doubt did not exist.

~William Manchester

I came to a dead stop and began major revisions. Sometimes these entailed the shredding of all existing manuscript for a fresh start - an inefficient way to write a book, though I found it exciting.

~William Manchester

His [Gen. Douglas MacArthurs] twenty-two medals-thirteen of them for heroism-probably exceeded those of any other figure in American history. He seemed to seek death on battlefields.

~William Manchester

The colors of the underwater rock [are] as pale and delicate as those in the wardrobe of an 18th-century marchioness.

~William Manchester

I realized that the worst thing that could happen to me was about to happen to me.

~William Manchester

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