

Alexander Chee

Quotes

*Writing, Looks, People, Reading, Singing, Ideas, Thinking, Heart, Editors, Book,
Real, Way, Now And Then, Greek, Prostitution, Maps, Dna, Culture, Debt,
Normal*

Each source that I read, I would look through the bibliography and the footnotes, and use that as a map for the next thing I would read.

~Alexander Chee

Every now and then, you find a book that feels like it was keyed to your DNA.

~Alexander Chee

Everyone would tell me they couldn't identify with sexual abuse. No one says they can't identify with the tales of the Greek gods and goddesses because they don't live on Mt. Olympus.

~Alexander Chee

Writers aren't born, they're made - from practice, reading, and a lot of caffeine.

~Alexander Chee

I have lived for a long time inside a series of coincidences that most people would find implausible in a novel.

~Alexander Chee

PhD, MFA, self-taught - the only things you must have to become a writer are the stamina to continue and a wily, cagey heart in the face of extremity, failure, and success.

~Alexander Chee

Whenever people say a coincidence in a novel is implausible, I think, Do I have a story for you.

~Alexander Chee

I had a naiveté that I would remember the things that I had written already, but I was getting lost in the forest of my own ideas and having to find my way out.

~Alexander Chee

The myth works to make the very real things people don't want to look at visible for them.

~Alexander Chee

As I get ready to buy a new computer, I'm stunned at all the many micro drafts, of different chapters and scenes and whatnot, that litter the hard drive.

~Alexander Chee

The secret to being a rider in the hippodrome wasn't that you must be agile, or that you must be good with horses...It was that you must hide inside your costume a little of a killer's heart.

~Alexander Chee

I grew up treating a life as a writer as a career in letters, one devoted to many kinds of writing. And so it seemed normal to study both fiction writing and the literary essay as an undergrad.

~Alexander Chee

With my family background - my parents were both activists - writing about culture and politics came naturally.

~Alexander Chee

I was trying to make a novel about something no one wanted to read about into something they couldn't put down or look away from.

~Alexander Chee

The idea of a talent that was bigger than an artist's ability to choose to use it, that would dictate the artist's life more than the artist could dictate, was interesting to me.

~Alexander Chee

I've been told it's hard to write about singing. I didn't realize that going into it. I might not have tried if I knew!

~Alexander Chee

One of my big inspirations was Celeste Mogador. She was a courtesan who wrote her memoirs in order to pay off her debts, which is a hilarious gesture.

~Alexander Chee

The way some were entrapped into lives of prostitution, the way that something like marriage could rob them of their rights.

~Alexander Chee

I realized that my identity as a novelist was private. Only I knew how much of a novelist I was!

~Alexander Chee

Most written work is a conversation between the editor and the writer, that the writer essentially fulfills in public, and the editor provides the stage for that to happen as well as the prompts.

~Alexander Chee

The ideal editor will hold you to the best of yourself in the piece.

~Alexander Chee

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