

Ali Smith

Quotes

*Book, Important, Needs, Stories, Happens, Art, Would Be, Father, Moving,
Thinking, Years, Want, Knows, Two, Eye, Growing Stronger, Games, Pieces,
Said, Filled*

Happy is what you realize you are a fraction of a second before it's too late.

~Ali Smith

Every great narrative is at least two narratives, if not more - the thing that is on the surface and then the things underneath which are invisible.

~Ali Smith

Fashion is fickle, and I was published because I was fashionable. Because I was gay.

~Ali Smith

Books mean all possibilities. They mean moving out of yourself, losing yourself, dying of thirst and living to your full. They mean everything.

~Ali Smith

I wouldn't call my work Modernist. I would rust if I try to think about labels. I'd feel like the Tin Man in 'The Wizard of Oz.

~Ali Smith

To be known so well by someone is an unimaginable gift. But to be imagined so well by someone is even better.

~Ali Smith

Oh. To be filled with goodness then shattered by goodness, so beautifully mosaically fragmented by such shocking goodness.

~Ali Smith

Stella Duffy is a writer who never lets you down.

~Ali Smith

Do you come to art to be comforted, or do you come to art to be re-skinned?

~Ali Smith

We'd never expect to understand a piece of music on one listen, but we tend to believe we've read a book after reading it just once.

~Ali Smith

Short stories consume you faster. They're connected to brevity. With the short story, you are up against mortality. I know how tough they are as a form, but they're also a total joy.

~Ali Smith

A good argument, like a good dialogue, is always a proof of life, but I'd much rather go and read a book.

~Ali Smith

I went to the top of Vesuvius and looked in.

~Ali Smith

We all know our dates of birth but . . . every year there is another date that we pass over without knowing what it is but it is just as important it is the other date the death date.

~Ali Smith

You never know if you're a writer. You can't trust it. If you woke up and said, "I'm a writer," it would be gone. You wouldn't see anything for miles - even the dust would be running away.

~Ali Smith

There are things that can't be said, because it's hard to have to know them.

~Ali Smith

All we are is eyes looking for the unbroken or the edges where the broken bits might fit each other.

~Ali Smith

remember you must live. remember you most love. remainder you mist leaf.

~Ali Smith

Art makes nothing happen in a way that makes something happen.

~Ali Smith

It is important to know the stories and histories of things, even if all we know is that we don't know.

~Ali Smith

The whole point is, we can forget. It's important that we forget some things. Otherwise we'd go round the world carrying a hodload of stuff we just don't need.

~Ali Smith

I want to be bored. But I can't. But I really don't want to be this thing that I'm having to be instead of being bored.

~Ali Smith

All we need to do, reader or writer, from first line to final page, is be as open as a book, and be alive to the life in language - on all its levels.

~Ali Smith

There is a kind of poetry, bad and good, in evrything, everywhere we look.

~Ali Smith

Words are like untying a corset - you can move into this great space with them.

~Ali Smith

I don't want a tombstone. You could carve on it 'She never actually wanted a tombstone.'

~Ali Smith

I have thought for a long time that the way my clothes hang on me is more important than me inside them.

~Ali Smith

I was at the tail end of the family. The next brother along was already seven years older than me. I remember growing up by myself, playing games by myself.

~Ali Smith

The proper word for me," Robin Goodman says, "is me.

~Ali Smith

The head has its confines. The head's got those all right, and the heart. The heart has its reasons.

~Ali Smith

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