

Alice Munro

Quotes

*People, Writing, Thinking, Stories, Believe, Men, World, Years, Children, Mean,
Way, House, Reading, Book, Real, Trying, Simple, Long, Dream, Hatred*

You cannot let your parents anywhere near your real humiliations.

~Alice Munro

The complexity of things - the things within things - just seems to be endless. I mean nothing is easy, nothing is simple.

~Alice Munro

Always remember that when a man goes out of the room, he leaves everything in it behind. When a woman goes out she carries everything that happened in the room along with her.

~Alice Munro

I would really hope this would make people see the short story as an important art, not just something you played around with until you got a novel.

~Alice Munro

The conversation of kisses. Subtle, engrossing, fearless, transforming.

~Alice Munro

In your life there are a few places, or maybe only the one place, where something happened, and then there are all the other places.

~Alice Munro

We say of some things that they can't be forgiven, or that we will never forgive ourselves. But we do-we do it all the time.

~Alice Munro

My head was a magpie's nest lined with such bright scraps of information.

~Alice Munro

Love removes the world for you, and just as surely when it's going well as when it's going badly.

~Alice Munro

Life would be grand if it weren't for the people.

~Alice Munro

Writing is hard, but the more you write, and enjoy what you write, the better it gets.

~Alice Munro

Never underestimate the meanness in people's souls... Even when they're being kind... especially when they're being kind.

~Alice Munro

I want the reader to feel something is astonishing. Not the 'what happens,' but the way everything happens. These long short story fictions do that best, for me.

~Alice Munro

Anecdotes don't make good stories. Generally I dig down underneath them so far that the story that finally comes out is not what people thought their anecdotes were about.

~Alice Munro

The story fails but your faith in the importance of doing the story doesn't fail.

~Alice Munro

Because if she let go of her grief even for a minute it would only hit her harder when she bumped into it again.

~Alice Munro

Few people, very few, have a treasure, and if you do you must hang onto it. You must not let yourself be waylaid, and have it taken from you.

~Alice Munro

I can't play bridge. I don't play tennis. All those things that people learn, and I admire, there hasn't seemed time for. But what there is time for is looking out the window.

~Alice Munro

It's just life. You can't beat life.

~Alice Munro

The constant happiness is curiosity.

~Alice Munro

Memory is the way we keep telling ourselves our stories - and telling other people a somewhat different version of our stories.

~Alice Munro

A story ... has a sturdy sense of itself of being built out of its own necessity, not just to shelter or beguile you.

~Alice Munro

There would never be any room in her for anything else. No room for anything but the realization of what she had done.

~Alice Munro

Moments of kindness and reconciliation are worth having, even if the parting has to come sooner or later.

~Alice Munro

people who believe in miracles do not make much fuss when they actually encounter one

~Alice Munro

They were all in their early thirties. An age at which it is sometimes hard

to admit that what you are living is your life.

~Alice Munro

Who can ever say the perfect thing to the poet about his poetry?

~Alice Munro

In my own work, I tend to cover a lot of time and to jump back and forward in time, and sometimes the way I do this is not very straightforward.

~Alice Munro

The images, the language, of pornography, and romance are alike; monotonous and mechanically seductive, quickly leading to despair.

~Alice Munro

People have thoughts they'd sooner not have. It happens in life.

~Alice Munro

I felt in him what women feel in men, something so tender, swollen, tyrannical, absurd; I would never take the consequences of interfering with it.

~Alice Munro

I never have a problem with finding material. I wait for it to turn up, and it always turns up. It's dealing with the material I'm inundated with that poses the problem.

~Alice Munro

Why is it a surprise to find that people other than ourselves are able to tell lies?

~Alice Munro

I want my stories to move people ... to feel some kind of reward from the writing.

~Alice Munro

She would live now, not read.

~Alice Munro

Braininess is not attractive unless combined with some signs of elegance; class.

~Alice Munro

People's lives, in Jubilee as elsewhere, were dull, simple, amazing, and unfathomable - deep caves paved with kitchen linoleum.

~Alice Munro

Sometimes I get the start of a story from a memory, an anecdote, but that gets lost and is usually unrecognizable in the final story.

~Alice Munro

That's something I think is growing on me as I get older: happy endings.

~Alice Munro

Row, row, row your boat. Gently down the stream. Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream.

~Alice Munro

She was learning, quite late, what many people around her appeared to have known since childhood that life can be perfectly satisfying without major achievements.

~Alice Munro

It was at this time that she entirely gave up on reading. The covers of books looked like coffins to her, either shabby or ornate, and what was inside them might as well have been dust.

~Alice Munro

For years and years I thought that stories were just practice, till I got time to write a novel.

~Alice Munro

You think that would have changed things? The answer is of course, and for a while, and never.

~Alice Munro

He never wanted to be away from her. She had the spark of life.

~Alice Munro

I read a book called *The Art of Loving*. A lot of things seemed clear while I was reading it but afterwards I went back to being more or less the same.

~Alice Munro

I despised their antics because I took life seriously and had a much more lofty and tender notion of romance. But I would have liked to get their attention just the same.

~Alice Munro

There were people whom you positively ached to please. If you failed with such people they would put you into a category in their minds where they could keep you and have contempt for you forever.

~Alice Munro

Now that I think of it, she looked splendid. I wish I had met her somewhere else. I wish I had appreciated her as she deserved. I wish that everything had gone differently.

~Alice Munro

The skin of everyday appearances stretched over such shamelessness, such consuming explosions of lust.

~Alice Munro

She keeps on hoping from a word from Penelope, but not in any strenuous way. She hopes as people who know better hope for undeserved blessings, spontaneous remissions, things of that sort.

~Alice Munro

You want in all cases for the story to get through the writing.

~Alice Munro

And did I not think then, What nonsense it is to suppose one man so different from another when all that life really boils down to is getting a decent cup of coffee and room to stretch out in?

~Alice Munro

I have never kept diaries. I just remember a lot and am more self-centered than most people.

~Alice Munro

He was evidently the sort of person who posed questions that were traps for you to fall into.

~Alice Munro

In twenty years I've never had a day when I didn't have to think about someone else's needs. And this means the writing has to be fitted around it.

~Alice Munro

Now i no longer believe that people's secrets are defined and communicable, or their feelings full-blown and easy to recognize.

~Alice Munro

I knew I would be famous one day. That's because I lived in a very small town and nobody liked doing the same things I did, like writing.

~Alice Munro

Speculation can be more gentle, can take its time, when it is not driven by desire.

~Alice Munro

One drop of hatred in your soul will spread and discolor everything like a drop of black ink in white milk.

~Alice Munro

So what about me? Would I always have to find a high horse? The moral relish, the rising above, the being in the right, which can make me flaunt my losses.

~Alice Munro

It's as if tendencies that seem most deeply rooted in our minds, most private and singular, have come in as spores on the prevailing wind, looking for any likely place to land, any welcome.

~Alice Munro

What she wants to do if she can get the time to do it, is not so much to live in the past as to open it up and get one good look at it".

~Alice Munro

Country manners. Even if somebody phones up to tell you your house is burning down, they ask first how you are.

~Alice Munro

Lovers. Not a soft word, as people thought, but cruel and tearing.

~Alice Munro

What she felt was a lighthearted sort of compassion, almost like laughter. A swish of tender hilarity, getting the better of all her sores and hollows, for the time given.

~Alice Munro

Pots can show malice, the patterns of linoleum can leer up at you, treachery is the other side of dailiness.

~Alice Munro

One stroke of lightning does not have to lead anywhere, but to the next stroke of lightning.

~Alice Munro

Every year, when you're a child, you become a different person.

~Alice Munro

And now such a warm commotion, such busy love.

~Alice Munro

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