

# Alice Sebold Quotes

*Father, People, Thinking, Girl, Kissing, Mother, Mean, Eye, Beautiful, Children,  
Lovely Bones, Forever, Two, Long, Dark, Book, Way, Hands, Heaven, Ruth*

How to Commit the Perfect Murder" was an old game in heaven. I always chose the icicle: the weapon melts away.

~Alice Sebold

You save yourself or you remain unsaved.

~Alice Sebold

I stared at her black hair. It was shiny like the promises in magazines.

~Alice Sebold

Sometimes the dreams that come true are the dreams you never even knew you had.

~Alice Sebold

Your first kiss is destiny knocking.

~Alice Sebold

You could not be filled with hate and be beautiful. Like any other girl, I wanted to be beautiful. But I was filled with hate.

~Alice Sebold

I like gardening - it's a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself.

~Alice Sebold

I would like to tell you that I am, and you will one day be, forever safe.

~Alice Sebold

She liked to imagine that when she passed the world looked after her, but she also knew how anonymous she was.

~Alice Sebold

He took the hat from my mouth. "Tell me you love me", he said. Gently I did. The end came anyway

~Alice Sebold

Because horror on Earth is real and it is every day. It is like a flower or like the sun; it cannot be contained.

~Alice Sebold

Heaven is comfort, but it's still not living.

~Alice Sebold

I was in the air around him. I was in the cold mornings he had now. I was in the quiet time he spent alone. I was the girl he had chosen to kiss. He wanted, somehow to set me free. -Susie Salmon

~Alice Sebold

A father's suspicion...' she began. Is as powerful as a mother's intuition.' ~pg 87, Ruana Singh and Jack Salmon

~Alice Sebold

I fell in love with you again; While you were away - Jack Salmon

~Alice Sebold

My name is Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered.

~Alice Sebold

You look invincible,' my mother said one night. I loved these times, when we seemed to feel the same thing. I turned to her, wrapped in my thin gown, and said: I am.

~Alice Sebold

I had rescued the moment by using my camera and in that way had found how to stop time and hold it. No one could take that image away from me because I owned it.

~Alice Sebold

Hey, Ocean Eyes,â€• my father said. â€œWhere'd you go on us?

~Alice Sebold

So there are cakes and pillows and colors galore, but underneath this more obvious patchwork quilt are places like a quiet room where you can go and hold someone's hand and not have to say anything.

~Alice Sebold

Tess was my first experience of a woman who had inhabited her weirdness, moved into the areas of herself that made her distinct from those around her, and learned how to display them proudly.

~Alice Sebold

To transform experience and thought into language and narrative - that is beautiful even if that beauty is in brokenness.

~Alice Sebold

Each time I told my story, I lost a bit, the smallest drop of pain.

~Alice Sebold

All you have to do is desire it, and if you desire it enough and understand why -- really know -- it will come.

~Alice Sebold

The shadow of years was not as big on his small body. He knew I was away . But when people left they always came back.

~Alice Sebold

What did dead mean, Ray wondered. It meant lost, it meant frozen, it meant gone.

~Alice Sebold

I wish you all a long and happy life

~Alice Sebold

At fourteen, my sister sailed away from me into a place I'd never been. In the walls of my sex there was horror and blood, in the walls of hers there were windows.

~Alice Sebold

If I had but an hour of love,if that be all that is given me,an hour of love upon this earth,I would give my love to thee.

~Alice Sebold

"When the dead are done with the living, the living can go on to other things," Franny said. "What about the dead?" I asked. "Where do we go?"

~Alice Sebold

Sometimes you cry, Susie, even when someone you love has been gone a long time.

~Alice Sebold

He had been my almost. My might-have-been. I was afraid of what I wanted most - His kiss. Still, I collected kiss stories. -Susie Salmon

~Alice Sebold

What I think was hardest for me to realize was that he had tried each time to stop himself. He had killed animals, taking lesser lives to keep from killing a child

~Alice Sebold

Nothing is ever certain.

~Alice Sebold

There was one thing my murderer didn't understand; he didn't understand how much a father could love his child.

~Alice Sebold

There's no condition one adjusts to so quickly as a state of war.

~Alice Sebold

She didn't even have to smile, and she rarely did outside her house--it was the eyes, her dancer's carriage, the way she seemed to deliberate over the smallest movement of her body.

~Alice Sebold

How could it be that you could love someone so much and keep it secret from yourself as you woke daily so far from home?

~Alice Sebold

Murderers are not monsters, they're men. And that's the most frightening thing about them.

~Alice Sebold

Who would have thought something that happened that long ago could have such power?

~Alice Sebold

You're not supposed to look back, you're supposed to keep going.

~Alice Sebold

Like snowflakes,' Franny said,'none of them the same and yet each one, from where we stand, exactly like the one before

~Alice Sebold

I had always been in love with him. I counted the lashes of each closed eye. He had been my almost, my might have been, and I did not want to leave him

~Alice Sebold

I loved the way the burned-out flashcubes of the Kodak Instamatic marked a moment that had passed, one that would now be gone

forever except for a picture.

~Alice Sebold

Poison and medicine are often the same thing, given in different proportions

~Alice Sebold

In my 20s, I railed against anything 'spiritual', I thought it was all crap.

~Alice Sebold

Part of the creative process for me is an invitation for readers to follow their imagination.

~Alice Sebold

One thing about failing repeatedly: If you're still doing it after you've failed that much, you really mean it.

~Alice Sebold

I dont think ignorance is a way that you gain distance on something.

~Alice Sebold

I have never been shy about listening to the input of others and weighing it seriously.

~Alice Sebold

I think you only learn what kind of personality you have by committing to things.

~Alice Sebold

I have always felt extremely weird. But I am very happy with my weirdnesses, and I want other people to be very happy with theirs.

~Alice Sebold

He had a moment of clarity about how life should be lived: not as a

child or as a woman. They were the two worst things to be.

~Alice Sebold

But also I wanted him to go away and leave me be. I was granted one weak grace. Back in the room where the green chair was still warm from his body, I blew that lonely, flickering candle out

~Alice Sebold

He would find his Susie, inside his young son. Give that love to the living.

~Alice Sebold

Loss could be used as a measure of beauty in a woman.

~Alice Sebold

Our only kiss was like an accident- a beautiful gasoline rainbow.

~Alice Sebold

As she brought prospective buyers through, the realtor said it was an oil stain, but it was me, seeping out of the bag.

~Alice Sebold

I left my mark on that man.

~Alice Sebold

Well, as my dad would say, it means she's out of this shithole.

~Alice Sebold

Those who say they would rather fight to the death than be raped are fools. I would rather be raped a thousand times. You do what you have to.

~Alice Sebold

Do you miss Susie?" Because it was dark, because Ruth was facing



away from her, because Ruth was almost a stranger, Lindsey said what she felt. "More than anyone will ever know.

~Alice Sebold

I would do exactly what you are doing: I would talk to everyone I needed to, I would not tell too many people his name. When I was sure," she said, "I would find a quiet way, and I would kill him.

~Alice Sebold

And my sister, my Lindsey, left me in her memories, where I was meant to be.

~Alice Sebold

The living deserve attention, too

~Alice Sebold

I was the girl he had chosen to kiss. He wanted, somehow to set me free. He didn't want to burn my photo or toss it away, but he didn't want to look at me anymore, either.

~Alice Sebold

Life is a perpetual yesterday for us.

~Alice Sebold

Like a medical procedure,' Ruth said. 'Intricate surgery is needed to patch up the planet.

~Alice Sebold

There wasn't a lot of bullshit in my heaven.

~Alice Sebold

The alcohol had the effect of making the black cloth blacker. This amused her; she had noted in her journal: "booze affects material as it does people.

~Alice Sebold

As if in the other side of his kiss there could ve a new life

~Alice Sebold

I watched my brother and my father. The truth was very different from what we learned in school. The truth was the line between the living and the dead could be, it seemed, murky and blurred.

~Alice Sebold

Between a man and a woman there was always one person who was stronger than the other one. That doesn't mean the weaker one doesn't love the stronger.

~Alice Sebold

But she was waiting patiently. She no longer believed in talk. It never rescued anything. At seventy she had come to believe in time alone.

~pg 254

~Alice Sebold

If I shut my eyes, I believed, I would disappear. To make it through, I had to be present the whole time.

~Alice Sebold

I missed her then but it was an odd sort of missing because by then, I knew the meaning of forever.

~Alice Sebold

The sun came through the branches of the tree above her, and Ruth looked up past them. "I think she listens," she said, too softly to be heard.

~Alice Sebold

I forgive you," I said. I said what I had to. I would die by pieces to save

myself from real death.

~Alice Sebold

I live in a world where two truths coexist: where both hell and hope lie in the palm of my hand

~Alice Sebold

Since then I've always thought that under rape in the dictionary it should tell the truth. It is not just forcible intercourse; rape means to inhabit and destroy everything.

~Alice Sebold

I was trying to prove to them and to myself that I was still who I had always been. I was beautiful, if fat. I was smart, if loud. I was good, if ruined.

~Alice Sebold

Murder had a blood red door on the other side of which was everything unimaginable to everyone.

~Alice Sebold

She no longer believed in talk. It never rescued anything.

~Alice Sebold

I wanted to be the moron of the family, because morons seemed to have more fun, more freedom and more personality.

~Alice Sebold

Learn a language of another country and then you can go to that country: a place where the problems of your family will not follow. A language they do not speak.

~Alice Sebold

The damage can fester under layers of time and change, and an

ignorant, thoughtless remark can easily reopen the wound.

~Alice Sebold

It's hard, because when you talk about process or your characters ruling your narrative, it sounds like you have no control, but obviously you're ultimately the author, so you do have control.

~Alice Sebold

It's very weird to succeed at thirty-nine years old and realize that in the midst of your failure, you were slowly building the life that you wanted anyway.

~Alice Sebold

When I was raped I lost my virginity and almost lost my life. I also discarded certain assumptions I had held about how the world worked and about how safe I was.

~Alice Sebold

but, he also said it because part of him wanted more of her, this cold woman who was not exactly cold, this rock who was not stone.

~Alice Sebold

Every day a question mark.

~Alice Sebold

I was like I was in science class: I was curious.

~Alice Sebold

Out loud I said I had two children. Silently I said three. I always felt like apologizing to her for that.

~Alice Sebold

People grow up by living.

~Alice Sebold

I wake up very early in the morning. I like to start in the dark, and I never work at night, because my brain is evaporated by 4 p.m.

~Alice Sebold

I'm fine with whatever comes my way, and whatever doesn't come my way I'm fine with too. I have a very laissez-faire attitude with the whole thing.

~Alice Sebold

I'm just a friendly bystander who they occasionally ask questions of. That's my level of involvement.

~Alice Sebold

He was beginning to understand: You were treated special and, later, something horrible would be told to you.

~Alice Sebold

As she stood in the darkened room and watched my sister and father, I knew one of things that heaven meant. I had a choice, and it was not to divide my family in my heart.

~Alice Sebold

Then a little voice in him said, Let go, let go, let go

~Alice Sebold

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