

Amy Tan Quotes

*Mother, Thinking, Writing, Daughter, People, Pain, Joy Luck Club, Eye,
Running, Heart, Way, Want, Memories, Two, Men, Book, Fate, Children, Ideas,
Trying*

I hid my deepest feelings so well I forgot where I placed them.

~Amy Tan

My mother said I was a clingy kid until I was about four. I also remember that from the age of eight she and I fought almost every day.

~Amy Tan

If you can't change your fate, change your attitude.

~Amy Tan

So sad! This is the saddest part when you lose someone you love- that person keeps changing. And later you wonder, Is this the same person I lost?

~Amy Tan

I am like a falling star who has finally found her place next to another in a lovely constellation, where we will sparkle in the heavens forever.

~Amy Tan

Writing is an extreme privilege but it's also a gift. It's a gift to yourself and it's a gift of giving a story to someone.

~Amy Tan

I was six when my mother taught me the art of invisible strength..."strongest wind cannot be seen."

~Amy Tan

How can you blame a person for his fears and weaknesses unless you have felt the same and done differently?

~Amy Tan

Libraries are the pride of the city.

~Amy Tan

Who knows where inspiration comes from. Perhaps it arises from desperation. Perhaps it comes from the flukes of the universe, the kindness of the muses.

~Amy Tan

From what I have observed, when the anesthesia of love wears off, there is always the pain of consequences. You don't have to be stupid to marry the wrong man.

~Amy Tan

Fate is shaped half by expectation, half by inattention.

~Amy Tan

Words to me were magic. You could say a word and it could conjure up all kinds of images or feelings or a chilly sensation or whatever. It was amazing to me that words had this power.

~Amy Tan

I was intelligent enough to make up my own mind. I not only had freedom of choice, I had freedom of expression.

~Amy Tan

And I think now that fate is shaped half by expectation, half by inattention. But somehow, when you lose something you love, faith takes over. -Rose

~Amy Tan

Memory feeds imagination.

~Amy Tan

With each passing day, I didn't lose hope. I fought to have more.

~Amy Tan

That is the nature of endings, it seems. They never end. When all the

missing pieces of your life are found, put together with glue of memory and reason, there are more pieces to be found.

~Amy Tan

Chaos is the penance for leisure.

~Amy Tan

I did not lose myself all at once. I rubbed out my face over the years washing away my pain, the same way carvings on stone are worn down by water.

~Amy Tan

How do I create something out of nothing? And how do I create my own life? I think it is by questioning, and saying to myself that there are no absolute truths.

~Amy Tan

I was punched breathless by the strongest emotions I have ever felt and they are now stored in my intuition as a writer.

~Amy Tan

It's a luxury being a writer, because all you ever think about is life.

~Amy Tan

Ying-ying, you have tiger eyes. They gather fire in the day. At night they shine golden.

~Amy Tan

I am fascinated by language in daily life: the way it can evoke an emotion, a visual image, a complex idea, or a simple truth.

~Amy Tan

We dream to give ourselves hope. To stop dreaming - well, that's like saying you can never change your fate.

~Amy Tan

I also thought of playing improvisational jazz and I did take lessons for a while. At first I tried to write fiction by making up things that were completely alien to my life.

~Amy Tan

I think we often write because we feel a loneliness, and people read for the same reason, and then they come away feeling a little less lonely.

~Amy Tan

You should think about your character. Know where you are changing, how you will be changed, what cannot be changed back again.

~Amy Tan

I wanted to write stories for myself. At first it was purely an aesthetic thing about craft. I just wanted to become good at the art of something. And writing was very private.

~Amy Tan

My sister Kwan believes she has yin eyes. She sees those who have died and now dwell in the world of Yin, ghosts who leave the mists just to visit her kitchen on Balboa Street in San Francisco.

~Amy Tan

That was how dishonesty and betrayal started, not in big lies but in small secrets.

~Amy Tan

Words are more ardent if a man must struggle to find them.

~Amy Tan

Why do you have to use me to show off? If you want to show off, then why don't you learn to play chess." - Ch. 5

~Amy Tan

People think it's a terrible tragedy when somebody has Alzheimer's. But in my mother's case, it's different. My mother has been unhappy all her life. For the first time in her life, she's happy.

~Amy Tan

Writing what you wished was the most dangerous form of wishful thinking.

~Amy Tan

I wanted my children to have the best combination: American circumstances and Chinese character. How could I know these things do not mix?

~Amy Tan

You remember only what you want to remember. You know only what your heart allows you to know.

~Amy Tan

Chance is the first step you take, luck is what comes afterward.

~Amy Tan

I have a writer's memory, which makes everything worse than maybe it actually was.

~Amy Tan

That was a wonderful period in my life. I mean, I didn't become an artist, but somebody let me do something I loved. What a luxury, to do something you love to do.

~Amy Tan

It's both rebellion and conformity that attack you with success.

~Amy Tan

Whenever I'm with my mother, I feel as though I have to spend the whole time avoiding land mines.

~Amy Tan

too much happiness always overflowed into tears of sorrow.

~Amy Tan

Only you pick that crab. Nobody else take it. I already know this. Everyone else want best quality. You thinking different.

~Amy Tan

The forbidden things were a great influence on my life. I was forbidden from reading A Catcher in the Rye.

~Amy Tan

God, life changes faster than you think.

~Amy Tan

Now I was a tiger that neither pounced nor lay waiting between the trees. I became an unseen spirit.

~Amy Tan

For woman is yin, the darkness within, where untempered passions lie. And man is yang, bright truth lighting our minds.

~Amy Tan

Even though I was young, I could see the pain of the flesh and the worth of the pain.

~Amy Tan

I began to look at all events and all things as relevant, an opportunity to take or avoid.

~Amy Tan

We all had our miseries. But to despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable. -Suyuan

~Amy Tan

There are a lot of people who think that's what's needed to be successful is always being right, always being careful, always picking the right path.

~Amy Tan

My mother had a very difficult childhood, having seen her own mother kill herself. So she didnt always know how to be the nurturing mother that we all expect we should have.

~Amy Tan

Then you must teach my daughter this same lesson. How to lose your innocence but not your hope. How to laugh forever.

~Amy Tan

You see what power is holding someone else's fear in your hand and showing it to them.

~Amy Tan

In America nobody says you have to keep the circumstances somebody else gives you.

~Amy Tan

I thought I was clever enough to write as well as these people and I didn't realize that there is something called originality and your own voice.

~Amy Tan

There's no hope. There's no reason to keep trying. Because you must. This is not hope. Not reason. This is your fate. This is your life, what you must do.

~Amy Tan

I loved fairy tales when I was a kid. Grimm. The grimmer the better. I loved gruesome gothic tales and, in that respect, I liked Bible stories, because to me they were very gothic.

~Amy Tan

I have loved works of fiction precisely for their illusions, for the author's sleight-of-hand in showing me the magic, what appeared in the right hand but not in the left.

~Amy Tan

My parents told me I would become a doctor and then in my spare time I would become a concert pianist. So, both my day job and my spare time were sort of taken care of.

~Amy Tan

And I remember wondering why it was that eating something good could make me feel so terrible, while vomiting something terrible could make me feel so good.

~Amy Tan

I discovered that maybe it was fate all along, that faith was just an illusion that somehow you're in control.

~Amy Tan

I would still like to have that luxury, to be able to just sit and draw for hours and hours and hours. In a way, that's what I do as a writer.

~Amy Tan

My parents had very high expectations. They expected me to get straight A's from the time I was in kindergarten.

~Amy Tan

I saw my mother in a different light. We all need to do that. You have to be displaced from what's comfortable and routine, and then you get to see things with fresh eyes, with new eyes.

~Amy Tan

I would find myself laughing and wondering where these ideas came from. You can call it imagination, I suppose. But I was grateful for wherever they came from.

~Amy Tan

Placing on writers the responsibility to represent a culture is an onerous burden.

~Amy Tan

You have to be your own person. You can't let people's opinions determine how you think about yourself. There's a difference between identity and self-identity.

~Amy Tan

But I will win and give her my spirit, because this is the way a mother loves her daughter. -Ying Ying

~Amy Tan

I didn't fear failure. I expected failure.

~Amy Tan

No one in my family was a reader of literary fiction. So, I didn't have encouragement, but I didn't have discouragement, because I don't think anybody knew what that meant.

~Amy Tan

Among writers, if you don't have a therapist, it's like saying you don't keep a journal or use the thesaurus. It's a natural accompaniment.

~Amy Tan

What is a secret wish?" "It is what you want but cannot ask.

~Amy Tan

I saw what I had been fighting for: it was for me, a scared child.

~Amy Tan

It is because I had so much joy that I came to have so much hate.

~Amy Tan

Dementia was like a truth serum.

~Amy Tan

Sure I loved him - too much. And he loved me, only not enough. I just want someone who thinks I'm number one in his life. I'm not willing to accept emotional scraps anymore.

~Amy Tan

Isn't hate merely the result of wounded love?

~Amy Tan

My mother had a look on her face that I'll never forget. It was one of complete despair and horror, for losing Bing, for being so foolish as to think she could use faith to change fate.

~Amy Tan

For unlike my mother, I did not believe I could be anything I wanted to be. I could only be me.

~Amy Tan

We are lost, she and I, unseen and not seeing, unheard and not hearing, unknown by others.

~Amy Tan

But she never looked back with regret. There were so many ways for

things to get better. -Jing-mei

~Amy Tan

And after I played them both a few times, I realized they were two halves of the same song.

~Amy Tan

And below the heimongmong, all along the ground, were weeds already spilling out over the edges, running wild in every direction.

~Amy Tan

I read a book a day when I was a kid. My family was not literary; we did not have any books in the house.

~Amy Tan

When you lose your face..., it is like dropping your necklace down a well. The only way you can get it back is to fall in after it.

~Amy Tan

We all hate moral ambiguity in some sense, and yet it is also absolutely necessary. In writing a story, it is the place where I begin.

~Amy Tan

And now I also see what part of me is Chinese. It is so obvious. It is my family. It is in our blood.

~Amy Tan

I have always known a thing before it happens.

~Amy Tan

You must think for yourself, what you must do. If someone tells you, then you are not trying. -An-mei

~Amy Tan

Secrets are kept from children, a lid on top of the soup kettle, so they do not boil over with too much truth.

~Amy Tan

It was a distorted form of inverse logic: If hopes never come true, then hope for what you don't want.

~Amy Tan

You can have pride in what you do each day, but not arrogance in what you were born with.

~Amy Tan

I feel I've always been writing about self-identity. How do we become who we are? So I'm just writing from experience what's concerned me.

~Amy Tan

When you already believe something, how can you suddenly stop?
When you are a loyal friend, how can you no longer be one?

~Amy Tan

I think I've always been somebody, since the deaths of my father and brother, who was afraid to hope. So, I was more prepared for failure and for rejection than for success.

~Amy Tan

That is the way it is with a wound. The wound begins to close in on itself, to protect what is hurting so much. And once it is closed, you no longer see what is underneath, what started the pain.

~Amy Tan

I started a second novel seven times and I had to throw them away.

~Amy Tan

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