

Anita Brookner Quotes

*Writing, Women, Love, Thinking, Life, Self, People, God, Moral, Winning, Way,
Friendship, Selfish, Company, Book, Men, Passion, Freedom, Break, Unfinished
Business*

Real love is a pilgrimage. It happens when there is no strategy, but it is very rare because most people are strategists.

~Anita Brookner

Good women always think it is their fault when someone else is being offensive. Bad women never take the blame for anything.

~Anita Brookner

Romanticism is not just a mode; it literally eats into every life. Women will never get rid of just waiting for the right man.

~Anita Brookner

Time misspent in youth is sometimes all the freedom one ever has.

~Anita Brookner

Accountability in friendship is the equivalent of love without strategy.

~Anita Brookner

Always let them think of you as singing and dancing.

~Anita Brookner

You never know what you will learn till you start writing. Then you discover truths you never knew existed.

~Anita Brookner

The essence of romantic love is that wonderful beginning, after which sadness and impossibility may become the rule.

~Anita Brookner

Dr Weiss, at forty, knew that her life had been ruined by literature.

~Anita Brookner

A man of such obvious and exemplary charm must be a liar.

~Anita Brookner

I suppose what one wants really is ideal company and books are ideal company.

~Anita Brookner

Problems of human behavior still continue to baffle us, but at least in the Library we have them properly filed.

~Anita Brookner

Great writers are the saints for the godless.

~Anita Brookner

You can never betray the people who are dead, so you go on being a public Jew; the dead can't answer slurs, but I'm here. I would love to think that Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but he doesn't.

~Anita Brookner

That sun, that light had faded, and she had faded with them. Now she was as grey as the season itself.

~Anita Brookner

You can never betray the people who are dead.

~Anita Brookner

The lessons taught in great books are misleading. The commerce in life is rarely so simple and never so just.

~Anita Brookner

A complete woman is probably not a very admirable creature. She is manipulative, uses other people to get her own way, and works within whatever system she is in.

~Anita Brookner

Existentialism is about being a saint without God; being your own hero, without all the sanction and support of religion or society.

~Anita Brookner

All good fortune is a gift of the gods, and you don't win the favor of the ancient gods by being good, but by being bold.

~Anita Brookner

To remain pure, a novel has to cast a moral puzzle. Anything else is mere negotiation.

~Anita Brookner

What is interesting about self-analysis is that it leads nowhere - it is an art form in itself.

~Anita Brookner

There are moments when you feel free, moments when you have energy, moments when you have hope, but you can't rely on any of these things to see you through. Circumstances do that.

~Anita Brookner

Like many rich men, he thought in anecdotes; like many simple women, she thought in terms of biography.

~Anita Brookner

You have no idea how promising the world begins to look once you have decided to have it all for yourself. And how much healthier your decisions are once they become entirely selfish.

~Anita Brookner

No blame should attach to telling the truth. But it does, it does.

~Anita Brookner

It will be a pity if women in the more conventional mould are to be phased out, for there will never be anyone to go home to.

~Anita Brookner

Writing has freed me from the despair of living.

~Anita Brookner

For once a thing is known, it can never be unknown. It can only be forgotten.

~Anita Brookner

Satire is dependent on strong beliefs, and on strong beliefs wounded.

~Anita Brookner

I am 46, and have been for some time past.

~Anita Brookner

And without understanding, could each properly love the other?

~Anita Brookner

Fiction is the great repository of the moral sense. The wicked get punished.

~Anita Brookner

I need noise and interruptions and irritation: irritation and discomfort are a great starter. The loneliness of doing it any other way would kill me.

~Anita Brookner

The self-fulfilled woman is far from reality.

~Anita Brookner

Writing novels preserves you in a state of innocence - a lot passes you by - simply because your attention is otherwise diverted.

~Anita Brookner

I think you always feel braver in another language.

~Anita Brookner

I was brought up among the sort of self-important women who had a husband as one has an alibi.

~Anita Brookner

Life is a pilgrimage and if you don't play by the rules you don't find the Road to Damascus, you find the Crown of Thorns.

~Anita Brookner

Death is only a small interruption.

~Anita Brookner

It is best to marry for purely selfish reasons.

~Anita Brookner

When you make a break for freedom you don't necessarily find company on the way.

~Anita Brookner

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