

Ann Beattie

Quotes

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People forget years and remember moments.

~Ann Beattie

When I was teaching at Harvard in the 1970s, I went to Project Incorporated in Cambridge and took photography classes. I didn't even know how to aim the camera in those days.

~Ann Beattie

Because I don't work with an outline, writing a story is like crossing a stream, now I'm on this rock, now I'm on this rock, now I'm on this rock.

~Ann Beattie

Cliches so often befall vain people.

~Ann Beattie

I think almost always that what gets me going with a story is the atmosphere, the visual imagery, and then I people it with characters, not the other way around.

~Ann Beattie

I don't write about things that I have the answers to or things that are very close to home. It just wouldn't be any adventure. It wouldn't have any vitality.

~Ann Beattie

There is some reason, obviously, that you are drawn to your material, but the way in which you explore it might come to be quite different from what you would expect.

~Ann Beattie

Nobody can assume that, to a writer, everything is off-limits.

~Ann Beattie

I like a lot of Margaret Atwood, I like much of Alice Munro. Again, if you

were to ask me about male writers, there's often a novel I admire, but not all of their works.

~Ann Beattie

Quite often my narrator or protagonist may be a man, but I'm not sure he's the more interesting character, or if the more complex character isn't the woman.

~Ann Beattie

I think that I'm serious, but I don't think that I'm inordinately bleak.

~Ann Beattie

It's often been said that I'm an extremely depressing, cynical writer. I've never known what to make of that.

~Ann Beattie

I don't even correct people when they mispronounce my name now.

~Ann Beattie

Also minimalism is a term that all of us who share so little in common and who are lumped together as minimalists are not terribly happy with.

~Ann Beattie

When I lived in New York, not only did I have safety locks on the door but I had the music going, keeping the city at a distance, trying to find creative time and peace and so forth.

~Ann Beattie

I must say also that it's never worked to my disadvantage that I have long, blond hair.

~Ann Beattie

It seems to me that the problem with diaries, and the reason that most

of them are so boring, is that every day we vacillate between examining our hangnails and speculating on cosmic order.

~Ann Beattie

Clouds are poems, and the most moving poems linger on the blackboard so long, written in cursive so lovely, they also exist inside our fingertips. We never really erase them at the end of the lesson.

~Ann Beattie

You have to figure out who the right person is to tell the story. And often, people who are very self-aware will only sound as if they are pontificating if they tell the story.

~Ann Beattie

I think I write about things that are mysterious to me.

~Ann Beattie

Much of what happens in *Love Always* is really from overheard conversations in the Russian Tea Room. It's an improvisation of the way certain Hollywood agents think and talk to each other.

~Ann Beattie

Whatever one intends, the work takes on a life of its own.

~Ann Beattie

The admiration of another writer's work is almost in inverse proportion to similarities in style.

~Ann Beattie

Italics provide a wonderful advantage: you see, right away, that the words are in a rush. When something exists at a slant, you can't help but consider irony.

~Ann Beattie

What will happen can't be stopped. Aim for Grace.

~Ann Beattie

Any life will seem dramatic if you omit mention of most of it.

~Ann Beattie

the real killer was when you married the wrong person but had the right children.

~Ann Beattie

You put a character out there and you're in their power. You're in trouble if they're in yours.

~Ann Beattie

I am not alone in bearing grudges against reviewers who have doomed a book's chances because they've missed the point, the tone, everything.

~Ann Beattie

Women are obviously much more discriminated against than men in many ways.

~Ann Beattie

It's gratifying that it does; I love to give readings.

~Ann Beattie

Falling in Place was meant to be very much rooted in a place and time, and music was a part of that.

~Ann Beattie

It's interesting, though, that in daily life, I think of myself as being relatively unobservant.

~Ann Beattie

If you could have a book called My Favorite Six Stories, I don't think I'd have trouble doing that.

~Ann Beattie

I've spent my life supporting myself.

~Ann Beattie

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