

Ann Patchett

Quotes

*Writing, Book, Thinking, People, Two, Reading, Way, Art, Stories, Mean, Want,
Sleep, Knows, Believe, Character, Persons, Should, Fiction, Trying, Giving*

Writing is a job, a talent, but it's also the place to go in your head. It is the imaginary friend you drink your tea with in the afternoon.

~Ann Patchett

Part of it is living in Tennessee. I'm so out of the loop. And as a person, I'm out of the loop. I'm oblivious by nature.

~Ann Patchett

Never be so focused on what you're looking for that you overlook the thing you actually find.

~Ann Patchett

No matter how much we love a book, the experience of reading it isn't complete until we can give it to someone who will love it as much as we do

~Ann Patchett

Only a few of us are going to be willing to break our own hearts by trading in the living beauty of imagination for the stark disappointment of words.

~Ann Patchett

You are always someones favorite unfolding story

~Ann Patchett

I can write for any magazine now, in any voice. I can do it in two hours, I could do it in my sleep, it's like writing a grocery list.

~Ann Patchett

Just because things hadn't gone the way I had planned didn't necessarily mean they had gone wrong.

~Ann Patchett

There can be something cruel about people who have had good

fortune. They equate it with personal goodness.

~Ann Patchett

You can't control what other people think about your art. Think about the part of yourself that you can control, which is your ability to be kind and loving and creative.

~Ann Patchett

Sometimes not having any idea where we're going works out better than we could possibly have imagined.

~Ann Patchett

It's always better to have too much to read than not enough.

~Ann Patchett

I am not mature enough as a reader to enjoy a book in which I hate all the people.

~Ann Patchett

Writing is a miserable, awful business. Stay with it. It is better than anything in the world.

~Ann Patchett

Staying within the world of a novel gives us the ability to be quiet and alone, two skills that are disappearing faster than the polar icecaps.

~Ann Patchett

Why is it that we understand playing the cello will require work, but we attribute writing to the magic of inspiration?

~Ann Patchett

It's easier to love a woman when you can't understand a word she's saying.

~Ann Patchett

When well told, a story captured the subtle movement of change. If a novel was a map of a country, a story was the bright silver pin that marked the crossroads.

~Ann Patchett

It makes you wonder. All the brilliant things we might have done with our lives if only we suspected we knew how.

~Ann Patchett

The Swedish he knew was mostly from Bergman films. He had learned it as a college student, matching the subtitles to the sounds. In Swedish, he could only converse on the darkest of subjects.

~Ann Patchett

Write because you love the art and the discipline, not because you're looking to sell something.

~Ann Patchett

Coming back is the thing that enables you to see how all the dots in your life are connected.

~Ann Patchett

I don't write for an audience, I don't think whether my book will sell, I don't sell it before I finish writing it.

~Ann Patchett

I am a totally public person.

~Ann Patchett

I made a startling discovery. Time spent writing = output of work.
Amazing.

~Ann Patchett

Art stands on the shoulders of craft, which means that to get to the art,

you must master the craft.

~Ann Patchett

Reading fiction is important. It is a vital means of imagining a life other than our own, which in turn makes us more empathetic beings.

~Ann Patchett

In this life we love who we love. There were some stories in which facts were very nearly irrelevant.

~Ann Patchett

Because of her singing they all went away feeling moved, feeling comforted, feeling, perhaps, the slightest tremors of faith.

~Ann Patchett

One must not be shy where language is concerned.

~Ann Patchett

The quality of gifts depends on the sincerity of the giver.

~Ann Patchett

I will write my way into another life.

~Ann Patchett

There was no one clear point of loss. It happened over and over again in a thousand small ways and the only truth there was to learn was that there was no getting used to it.

~Ann Patchett

I will go and speak at rotary clubs. I will go and speak at schools. I'm so much in the community, but in a way that I love. It's been such a positive thing.

~Ann Patchett

If you've had good gin on a hot day in Southern California with the people you love, you forget Nebraska. The two things cannot coexist. The stronger, better of the two wins.

~Ann Patchett

I think the best vacation is the one that relieves me of my own life for a while and then makes me long for it again.

~Ann Patchett

Happiness compresses time, makes it dense and bright, pocketsized.

~Ann Patchett

I'm very comfortable writing.

~Ann Patchett

The hardest piece of nonfiction I ever wrote isn't anywhere close to the easiest piece of fiction I never wrote.

~Ann Patchett

Some people need a huge amount of attention, and they are worthy of that attention, and they're still exhausting.

~Ann Patchett

I craft everything in the beginning. I know where the characters are going before I start writing the book.

~Ann Patchett

I love a large cast of characters. That's the way life is: it's flooded with people and we keep them all straight.

~Ann Patchett

We have different kinds of intimacy with many, many people. I'm disappointed by well-written novels that only deal with two or three people.

~Ann Patchett

Guns are dangerous and damaging even when no one gets shot. They really do loom.

~Ann Patchett

Everybody believes in chance.

~Ann Patchett

That's the way I work. I get it all plotted in my mind, and then I write it down.

~Ann Patchett

I know where I'm going. And if I don't know where I'm going, I don't tend to get anywhere.

~Ann Patchett

I think, if you want to grow a novelist, for that person to have a lot of boring time trying to entertain themselves is very important.

~Ann Patchett

Maybe there would be a bad outcome for some of the others, but no one was going to shoot a soprano.

~Ann Patchett

The timing of the electrical failure seemed dramatic and perfectly correct, as if the lights had said, "You have no need for sight. Listen.

~Ann Patchett

You can't pick up and leave everything behind because there is too much sadness in the world and not enough places to go.

~Ann Patchett

The light was cut to lace by the trees that had grown so thick with

leaves in the last few months.

~Ann Patchett

I can't write the book I want to write, but I can and will write the book I am capable of writing.

~Ann Patchett

The kind of love that offers its life so easily, so stupidly, is always the love that is not returned.

~Ann Patchett

Time has a funny way of collapsing when you go back to a place you once loved. You find yourself thinking, I was kissed in that building, I climbed up that tree.

~Ann Patchett

If someone loves you for what you can do then it's flattering, but why do you love them? If someone loves you for who you are then they have to know you, which means you have to know them.

~Ann Patchett

Even though I didn't know I was applying for the job, I have somehow become the spokesperson for independent book stores.

~Ann Patchett

To say it was a beautiful day would not begin to explain it. It was that day when the end of summer intersects perfectly with the start of fall
[p.218 ff.]

~Ann Patchett

shame should be reserved for the things we choose to do, not the circumstances that life puts on us

~Ann Patchett

She sang as if she was saving the life of every person in the room.

~Ann Patchett

Love was action. It came to you. It was not a choice.

~Ann Patchett

The tricky thing about being a writer, or about being any kind of artist, is that in addition to making art you also have to make a living.

~Ann Patchett

I am sure every writer has this and probably every newscaster, that people are always coming up to me and saying, my daughter wants to do what you do, my godson, my tennis partner.

~Ann Patchett

It was never the right time or it was always the right time, depending on how you looked at it.

~Ann Patchett

That was the way things worked. When you were looking for the big fight, the moment that you thought would knock everything over, nothing much happened at all.

~Ann Patchett

No one should have to go back to the place where she had once been a girl.

~Ann Patchett

I wanted to eat her pain, take it into me and make it my own.

~Ann Patchett

Maybe that was the definition of life everlasting: the belief that the next generation would carry your work forward.

~Ann Patchett

It was all in my head and now all I had to do was figure out a way to get it down on paper.

~Ann Patchett

When you get divorced and remarried, nobody gets discarded. Everybody is still there. Even if their storyline is not directly yours.

~Ann Patchett

I think people become consumed with selling a book when they need to be consumed with writing it.

~Ann Patchett

The thing you can count on in life is that Tennessee will always be scorching hot in August.

~Ann Patchett

Updike and Bellow and Roth were my three favorite writers when I was young and throughout my life.

~Ann Patchett

Sometimes if there's a book you really want to read, you have to write it yourself.

~Ann Patchett

Learn to write by writing

~Ann Patchett

Love is a rebellious bird that no one can tame

~Ann Patchett

Home, bed, sleep, mother--who knew more beautiful words than these?

~Ann Patchett

If what a person wants is his life, he tends to be quiet about wanting anything else. Once the life begins to seem secure, one feels the freedom to complain.

~Ann Patchett

Maybe the private life wasn't forever. Maybe everyone got it for a little while and then spent the rest of their lives remembering.

~Ann Patchett

I believe, in my better moments, that there is a plan and things go not the way we want them to but the way they should.

~Ann Patchett

For a man to know what he has when he had it, that is what makes him a fortunate man.

~Ann Patchett

No one tells the truth to people they don't actually know, and if they do it is a horrible trait. Everyone wants something smaller, something neater than the truth.

~Ann Patchett

People gave me such a bad time about wanting a baby. I didn't want a baby, and I still don't. I wanted a dog.

~Ann Patchett

If you're trying to find out what's coming next, turn off everything you own that has an OFF switch and listen.

~Ann Patchett

Society was nothing but a long, dull dinner party conversation in which one was forced to speak to one's partner on both the left and the right.

~Ann Patchett

The love between humans is the thing that nails us to the earth.

~Ann Patchett

Sometimes love does not have the most honorable beginnings, and the endings, the endings will break you in half. It's everything in between we live for.

~Ann Patchett

If I had problems, I kept them to myself. I didn't make a scene.

~Ann Patchett

But we cannot unbraid the story of another person's life and take out all the parts that don't suit our purposes and put forth only the ones that do.

~Ann Patchett

Using your imagination is the one time in life you can really go anywhere.

~Ann Patchett

He used to say we all had a compass inside of us and what we needed to do was to find it and to follow it.

~Ann Patchett

You throw a person in the river and then make a spectacle of jumping in to save them.

~Ann Patchett

Everyone knows everything eventually.

~Ann Patchett

You can't always trust what you think, what you know ... but you can always trust your nature.

~Ann Patchett

There are, of course, people who didn't create the trouble they're in, but lots of them do.

~Ann Patchett

I used to do everything to keep a wall up around myself and keep my life quiet so that I could write.

~Ann Patchett

I'm very sentimental about lobsters. The last lobster I ate was the only lobster I cooked.

~Ann Patchett

I don't believe in fate, as in, which I - as a Catholic, I think, sort of predestination. But I certainly believe in chance.

~Ann Patchett

I tend to keep my ideas in my head. When I write something down in a notebook it's never centralized. There are too many notebooks floating around, but maybe that's a good thing.

~Ann Patchett

My writing process has changed because it's harder to find uninterrupted time.

~Ann Patchett

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