

Anna Quindlen Quotes

*Thinking, Children, Writing, Book, People, Mother, Men, Kids, Reading, Years,
Heart, World, Mean, Real, Long, Believe, Moving, Home, Jobs, Parent*

The thing that is really hard, and really amazing, is giving up on being perfect and beginning the work of becoming yourself.

~Anna Quindlen

I would be the most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves.

~Anna Quindlen

A finished person is a boring person.

~Anna Quindlen

There is a little boy inside the man who is my brother... Oh, how I hated that little boy. And how I love him too.

~Anna Quindlen

After all those years as a woman hearing 'not thin enough, not pretty enough, not smart enough, not this enough, not that enough,' almost overnight I woke up one morning and thought, 'I'm enough.'

~Anna Quindlen

Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home.

~Anna Quindlen

There is a lot of talk now about metal detectors and gun control. Both are good things. But they are no more a solution than forks and spoons are a solution to world hunger.

~Anna Quindlen

Look back, to slavery, to suffrage, to integration and one thing is clear. Fashions in bigotry come and go. The right thing lasts.

~Anna Quindlen

You are the only person alive who has sole custody of your life ... Your entire life ... Not just the life of your mind, but the life of your heart. Not just your bank account, but your soul.

~Anna Quindlen

America is a country that seems forever to be toddler or teenager, at those two stages of human development characterized by conflict between autonomy and security.

~Anna Quindlen

In books I have traveled, not only to other worlds, but into my own.

~Anna Quindlen

Speech is the voice of the heart.

~Anna Quindlen

Your children make it impossible to regret your past. They're its finest fruits. Sometimes the only ones.

~Anna Quindlen

Life is not so much about beginnings and endings as it is about going on and on and on. It is about muddling through the middle.

~Anna Quindlen

Decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves.

~Anna Quindlen

All parents should be aware that when they mock or curse gay people, they may be mocking or cursing their own child.

~Anna Quindlen

A man who builds his own pedestal had better use strong cement.

~Anna Quindlen

The life you have led doesn't need to be the only life you have.

~Anna Quindlen

There is something so settled and stodgy about turning a great romance into next of kin on an emergency room form, and something so soothing and special, too.

~Anna Quindlen

That's really what I want in a leader; I want somebody who's really, really smart.

~Anna Quindlen

If an opportunity scares you, that's God's way of saying you should jump at it.

~Anna Quindlen

I am a good friend to my husband. I have tried to make my marriage vows mean what they say. I show up. I listen. I try to laugh.

~Anna Quindlen

The victim mentality may be the last uncomplicated thing about life in America.

~Anna Quindlen

If men got pregnant, there would be safe, reliable methods of birth control. They'd be cheap, too.

~Anna Quindlen

I was doing the family grocery shopping accompanied by two children, an event I hope to see included in the Olympics in the near future.

~Anna Quindlen

The greatest public health threat for many American women is the men they live with.

~Anna Quindlen

I am an affirmative action hire.

~Anna Quindlen

Ideas are like pizza dough, made to be tossed around.

~Anna Quindlen

I sometimes think that courage is the thing that you need more than any other thing. It's fear that cripples us. It's fear that accounts for racism, it's fear that accounts for sexism, for xenophobia.

~Anna Quindlen

We don't do ambivalence well in America. We do courage of our convictions. We do might makes right. Ambivalence is French. Certainty is American.

~Anna Quindlen

Women who marry early are often overly enamored of the kind of man who looks great in wedding pictures and passes the maid of honor his telephone number.

~Anna Quindlen

Don't ever confuse the two, your life and your work. The second is only part of the first.

~Anna Quindlen

People always blame the girl; she should have said no. A monosyllable, but conventional wisdom has always been that boys can't manage it.

~Anna Quindlen

Stereotypes fall in the face of humanity. We human beings are best understood one at a time.

~Anna Quindlen

I learned to love the journey, not the destination. I learned that this is not a dress rehearsal, and that today is the only guarantee you get.

~Anna Quindlen

In a democratic society, the only treason is silence.

~Anna Quindlen

Familiarity breeds content.

~Anna Quindlen

Each instance of sexual harassment has to be judged on its merits. Facts, timing, motives, credibility: all must be considered before we make up our own minds what to believe.

~Anna Quindlen

And sometimes you do everything right and something bad just happens. It's as simple, and as scary, as that.

~Anna Quindlen

Maybe I had three children in the first place so I wouldn't ever have to play board games. In my religion, martyrs die.

~Anna Quindlen

what we call things matters. ... The words we use, and how we perceive those words, reflect how we value, or devalue, people, places, and things.

~Anna Quindlen

part of the problem with a war on poverty today is that many Americans have decided that being poor is a character defect, not an economic condition.

~Anna Quindlen

All of us want to do well. But if we do not do good, too, then doing well

will never be enough.

~Anna Quindlen

You cannot be really first-rate at your work if your work is all you are.

~Anna Quindlen

Here is the real domino theory - gay man to gay man, bisexual man to straight woman, addict mother to newborn baby, they all fall down and someday it will come to you.

~Anna Quindlen

Somewhere between a third and a quarter of all people living in America today were born between 1946 and 1965 and if you think you're tired of hearing about us, you should try being one of us.

~Anna Quindlen

We read in bed because reading is halfway between life and dreaming, our own consciousness in someone else's mind.

~Anna Quindlen

A life of unremitting caution, without the carefree - or even, occasionally, the careless - may turn out to be half a life.

~Anna Quindlen

Sometimes we don't see out of our peripheral vision what's coming right around the corner.

~Anna Quindlen

I think when people keep saying to you, "You're good at this," you just keep doing it.

~Anna Quindlen

When you really want to say no, say no. You can't do everything - or at least not well.

~Anna Quindlen

When an actress takes off her clothes onscreen but a nursing mother is told to leave, what message do we send about the roles of women?

~Anna Quindlen

Amid attempts to protect elephants from ivory poachers and dolphins from tuna nets, the rights of children go remarkably unremarked.

~Anna Quindlen

In the family sandwich, the older people and the younger ones can recognize one another as the bread. Those in the middle are, for a time, the meat.

~Anna Quindlen

Here is one of the worst things about having someone you love die: It happens again every single morning.

~Anna Quindlen

It is so easy to waste our lives: Our days, our hours, our minutes ... it is so easy to exist instead of live.

~Anna Quindlen

Women are the glue that holds our day-to-day world together.

~Anna Quindlen

Down time is where we become ourselves... a hiatus that passes for boredom but is really the quiet moving of the wheels inside that fuel creativity.

~Anna Quindlen

There is only room in the lifeboat of your life for one, and you always choose yourself, and turn your parents into whatever it takes to keep you afloat.

~Anna Quindlen

Keeping kids safe is sometimes a delusion. The world is a perilous place. Sometimes the kitchen is a perilous place.

~Anna Quindlen

Being a reporter is as much a diagnosis as a job description.

~Anna Quindlen

I will never understand people who think that the way to show their righteous opposition to sexual freedom is to write letters full of filthy words.

~Anna Quindlen

Get a life. A real life. Not a manic pursuit of the next promotion, the bigger paycheck, the larger house.

~Anna Quindlen

This is how I learn most of what I know about my children and their friends: by sitting in the driver's seat and keeping quiet.

~Anna Quindlen

My most pronounced writing habit is trying not to write.

~Anna Quindlen

I hadn't written a love story before and I hadn't written a novel with a happy ending before.

~Anna Quindlen

Ignorant free speech often works against the speaker. That is one of several reasons why it must be given rein instead of suppressed.

~Anna Quindlen

New York City has finally hired women to pick up the garbage, which

makes sense to me, since, as I've discovered, a good bit of being a woman consists of picking up garbage.

~Anna Quindlen

Figuring out who you are is the whole point of the human experience.

~Anna Quindlen

If you want something, it will elude you. If you do not want something, you will get ten of it in the mail.

~Anna Quindlen

People have writer's block not because they can't write, but because they despair of writing eloquently.

~Anna Quindlen

In books I have traveled, not only to other worlds but into my own. I learned who I was and who I wanted to be, what I might aspire to, and what I might dare to dream about my world and myself.

~Anna Quindlen

Grief remains one of the few things that has the power to silence us.

~Anna Quindlen

If God had meant Harvard professors to appear in People magazine, She wouldn't have invented The New York Review of Books.

~Anna Quindlen

The clearest explanation for the failure of any marriage is that the two people are incompatible; that is, that one is male and the other female.

~Anna Quindlen

I can't think of anything to write about except families. They are a metaphor for every other part of society.

~Anna Quindlen

I'm sure not afraid of success and I've learned not to be afraid of failure. The only thing I'm afraid of now is of being someone I don't like much.

~Anna Quindlen

It's so much easier to write a resume than to craft a spirit.

~Anna Quindlen

the joy of someone who had been a reader all her life, whose world had been immeasurably enlarged by the words of others.

~Anna Quindlen

Fashions in bigotry come and go. The right thing lasts.

~Anna Quindlen

I feel about exercise the same way that I feel about a few other things: that there is nothing wrong with it if it is done in private by consenting adults.

~Anna Quindlen

[In the aftermath of death] Small talk feels too small, big talk too enormous.

~Anna Quindlen

Not writing at all leads to nothing.

~Anna Quindlen

So much of what you take for granted is the bedrock of happiness.

~Anna Quindlen

Real friends offer both hard truths and soft landings and realize that it's sometimes more important to be nice than to be honest.

~Anna Quindlen

People who wish to salute the free and independent side of their

evolutionary character acquire cats. People who wish to pay homage to their servile and salivating roots own dogs.

~Anna Quindlen

Choose the kids. There will be plenty of time later to choose work.

~Anna Quindlen

But never fear, gentlemen; castration was really not the point of feminism, and we women are too busy eviscerating one another to take you on.

~Anna Quindlen

I'm a Catholic of the New Testament, I'm not a Catholic of the hierarchy.

~Anna Quindlen

Reading is not simply an intellectual pursuit but an emotional and spiritual one. It lights the candle in the hurricane lamp of self; that's why it survives

~Anna Quindlen

If we really feel like we're comfortable in our own skins now, we have a longer period of time to live out that kind of third or fourth act of our life.

~Anna Quindlen

You're like a cake when you're young. You can't rush it or it will fall, or just turn out wrong. Rising takes patience, and heat.

~Anna Quindlen

We almost manage to forget that things happen that we don't anticipate.

~Anna Quindlen

Today is the only guarantee you get.

~Anna Quindlen

Some of the most important lessons I've learned have been from stumbling, and I am deeply grateful that my parents allowed me to fight my own battles.

~Anna Quindlen

Life is made up of moments, small pieces of glittering mica in a long stretch of gray cement.

~Anna Quindlen

I was very driven, very focused, very ambitious. I mean, when I look back on myself in my 20s, part of me just cringes.

~Anna Quindlen

Don't ever forget the words on a postcard that my father sent me last year: "If you win the rat race, you're still a rat.

~Anna Quindlen

the most sacred business of judges is not to ratify the will of the majority but to protect the minority from its tyranny.

~Anna Quindlen

I think that we really fool ourselves about our ability to be safe and secure nowadays.

~Anna Quindlen

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