

Anne Carson Quotes

*Thinking, Mean, Writing, Desire, Moving, Want, Pain, Self, Running, Mother,
Two, Night, Men, Light, World, Greek, Mind, People, Dream, Stories*

Words bounce. Words, if you let them, will do what they want to do and what they have to do.

~Anne Carson

One of the principle qualities of pain is that it demands an explanation.

~Anne Carson

To be running breathlessly, but not yet arrived, is itself delightful, a suspended moment of living hope.

~Anne Carson

The words we read and words we write never say exactly what we mean. The people we love are never just as we desire them. The two symbola never perfectly match. Eros is in between.

~Anne Carson

You remember too much," my mother said to me recently. "Why hold onto all that?" And I said, "where can I put it down?"

~Anne Carson

Why does tragedy exist? Because you are full of rage. Why are you full of rage? Because you are full of grief.

~Anne Carson

Myths are stories about people who become too big for their lives temporarily, so that they crash into other lives or brush against gods. In crisis their souls are visible.

~Anne Carson

Under the seams runs the pain.

~Anne Carson

When I desire you a part of me is gone.

~Anne Carson

If your way of life is writing, then everything that happens becomes a sentence.

~Anne Carson

When an ecstatic is asked the question, What is it that love dares the self to do? she will answer: Love dares the self to leave itself behind, to enter into poverty.

~Anne Carson

Give me a world, you have taken the world I was.

~Anne Carson

I've come to understand that the best one can hope for as a human is to have a relationship with that emptiness where God would be if God were available, but God isn't.

~Anne Carson

Caught between the tongue and the taste.

~Anne Carson

A page with a poem on it is less attractive than a page with a poem on it and some tea stains.

~Anne Carson

Madness and witchery as well as bestiality are conditions commonly associated with the use of the female voice in public.

~Anne Carson

Reality is a sound, you have to tune in to it not just keep yelling.

~Anne Carson

Sometimes I dream a sentence and write it down. It's usually nonsense, but sometimes it seems a key to another world.

~Anne Carson

Those nights lying alone are not discontinuous with this cold hectic dawn. It is who I am.

~Anne Carson

They were two superior eels at the bottom of the tank and they recognized each other like italics.

~Anne Carson

To live past the end of your myth is a perilous thing.

~Anne Carson

Could you visit me in dreams? That would cheer me. Sweet to see friends in the night, however short the time.

~Anne Carson

We are only midway through the central verse of our youth when we see ourselves begin to blacken. ... We had been seduced into thinking that we were immortal and suddenly the affair is over.

~Anne Carson

Simply do something else and return to it later to find the problem wasn't a problem at all. Ruptures almost always lead to a stronger project.

~Anne Carson

A man moves through time. It means nothing except that, like a harpoon, once thrown he will arrive.

~Anne Carson

Lava bread makes you passionate.

~Anne Carson

All human desire is poised on an axis of paradox, absence and presence its poles, love and hate its motive energies.

~Anne Carson

Desire doubled is love and love doubled is madness.

~Anne Carson

Meanwhile music pounded / across hearts opening every valve to the desperate drama of being / a self in a song.

~Anne Carson

I am kind of a curmudgeonly person, so I don't gravitate to groups or traditions, which is probably just pretentious of me.

~Anne Carson

It is easier to tell a story of how people wound one another than of what binds them together.

~Anne Carson

Comfortable means gradually more and more flattened down, more and more blunt - less and less sharp and biting into you.

~Anne Carson

My religion makes no sense and does not help me therefore I pursue it.

~Anne Carson

Making is always a slightly hopeful thing because once you've made something, it'll - the world will be different.

~Anne Carson

He was trying to fit this Herakles onto the one he knew.

~Anne Carson

You used to say. "Desire doubled is love and love doubled is madness." Madness doubled is marriage I added when the caustic was

cool, not intending to produce a golden rule.

~Anne Carson

Time isn't made of anything. It is an abstraction. Just a meaning that we impose upon motion.

~Anne Carson

What makes life life and not a simple story? Jagged bits moving never still, all along the wall.

~Anne Carson

What is the fear inside language? No accident of the body can make it stop burning.

~Anne Carson

A refugee population is hungry for language and aware that anything can happen.

~Anne Carson

Do you remember when they taught cursive in schools? I think they don't anymore. But I still enjoy it - just the physical act and all the - the whole business of making a thing out of language.

~Anne Carson

The self forms at the edge of desire, and a science of self arises in the effort to leave that self behind.

~Anne Carson

Love dares the self to leave itself behind, to enter into poverty.

~Anne Carson

No need to fear death. There will be a tunnel and light.

~Anne Carson

It is when you are asking about something that you realize you yourself have survived it, and so you must carry it, or fashion it into a thing that carries itself.

~Anne Carson

He came after Homer and before Gertrude Stein, a difficult interval for a poet.

~Anne Carson

Poetry - poiesis means a thing made.

~Anne Carson

What is a quote? A quote (cognate with quota) is a cut, a section, a slice of someone's orange. You suck the slice, toss the rind, skate away.

~Anne Carson

There is no person without a world.

~Anne Carson

Love is a good place to situate our distrust of fake women.

~Anne Carson

Philosophy - hopeless. Yet it gives me hope.

~Anne Carson

I do think I have an ability to record sensual and emotional facts and factoids, to construct a convincing surface of what life feels like, both physical life and emotional life.

~Anne Carson

The man has a theory. The woman has hipbones. Here comes Death.

~Anne Carson

he stood against the wind and let it peel him clean

~Anne Carson

At least half of your mind is always thinking, I'll be leaving; this won't last. It's a good Buddhist attitude. If I were a Buddhist, this would be a great help. As it is, I'm just sad.

~Anne Carson

Philosophers say man forms himself in dialogue.

~Anne Carson

Aristotle says that metaphor causes the mind to experience itself in the act of making a mistake.

~Anne Carson

We humans seem disastrously in love with this thing (whatever it is) that glitters on the earth-- we call it life.

~Anne Carson

We participate in the creation of the world by decreating ourselves.

~Anne Carson

Everything depends on liking the people and trusting the people. You have to assume that whatever they do will be as good as you want the thing to be and just go ahead with that.

~Anne Carson

Here we go mother on the shipless ocean. Pity us, pity the ocean, here we go.

~Anne Carson

Maybe I could have been good as a drawer if I had done it as much as I did writing, but it's more scary to draw. It's more revealing. You can't disguise yourself in drawing.

~Anne Carson

Men know almost nothing about desire, they think it has to do with sexual activity or can be discharged that way. But sex is a substitute, like money or language. Sometimes I just want to stop seeing.

~Anne Carson

Up against another human being one's own procedures take on definition

~Anne Carson

I don't read reviews and I don't know what to do with opinions, so I just lose them. They take up space, they become a process of manufacturing a persona, which I want to avoid.

~Anne Carson

I mean, every thought starts over, so every expression of a thought has to do the same. every accuracy has to be invented... I feel I am blundering in concepts too fine for me.

~Anne Carson

Homer must have felt this pressure to come up with an epic poem that would sound totally new to an audience that had loved his previous best-seller.

~Anne Carson

Consider incompleteness as a verb.

~Anne Carson

Each night about this time he puts on sadness like a garment and goes on writing.

~Anne Carson

All myth is an enriched pattern, a two-faced proposition, allowing its

operator to say one thing and mean another, to lead a double life.

~Anne Carson

M: Is he smart I: She yes very smart sees right through me M: In my day we valued blindness rather more

~Anne Carson

I am a drop of gold he would say I am molten matter returned from the core of earth to tell you interior things-

~Anne Carson

I never really got over the fun of making letters.

~Anne Carson

You can get used to eating breakfast with a man in a fedora. You can get used to anything, my mother was in the habit of saying.

~Anne Carson

Life pulls softly inside your bindings. The pod glows - dear stench.

~Anne Carson

You can never know enough, never work enough, never use the infinitives and participles oddly enough, never impede the movement harshly enough, never leave the mind quickly enough.

~Anne Carson

I never had much education in English poetry as such.

~Anne Carson

When I began to be published, people got the idea that I should 'teach writing,' which I have no idea how to do and don't really believe in.

~Anne Carson

It takes practice to shave the skin off the light.

~Anne Carson

Sometimes a journey makes itself necessary.

~Anne Carson

No one will ever make necessity not happen.

~Anne Carson

It is for God to fix the time who knows no time.

~Anne Carson

Desire is no light thing.

~Anne Carson

Existence will not stop until it gets to beauty.

~Anne Carson

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